The German Tribune

Hamburg, 23 December 1979
Eighteenth Year - No. 921 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

Schmidt maintains delicate balance over arms

Nato defence structure, Helmut Schmidt has always felt, must not be allowed to shrink to what in effect would be no more than a special relationship between Bonn and Washington.

He rightly judges that special status of whatever kind for Germany in Western Europe would unnecessarily upset its neighbours, especially the smaller countries.

He also fears that political solidarity in Nato would not long survive a distinction between first- and second-class members.

These guidelines have played a large part in promoting understanding in Nato. They dispel any suspicions that Bonn is keen on the quiet to attain leadership status.

But there is also another side to the coin, as laborious efforts to ensure North Atlantic unanimity on tactical nuclear modernisation at the Brussels Nato summit showed.

Parliamentary debates in Denmark and Norway, Belgium and Holland would doubtless have been relatively unproblematic if the stationing of new medium-range missiles in Europe had been settled by the terms of a separate agreement between Bonn and Washington.

But Bonn would then have been rated on both sides of the East-West border as Western Europe's spokesman on nuclear armament.

This, moreover, would have occurred in the context of a decision that had greater political significance than any Nato has reached in the past 20 years.

Not relishing this prospect, Herr Schmidt insisted that at least one other Continental nuclear have-not must allow the new missiles to be based on its territory.

He realised that this demand was not going to make life easier for smaller Nato countries, but felt insistence was still absolutely essential.

Helmut Schmidt has nonetheless been largely responsibile for ensuring widespread approval by European governments of the US demand for Western nuclear modernisation.

It was he who stressed at the four-power Guadeloupe summit last January that a Western counterweight to Soviet superiority in medium-range missiles was not, by itself, enough.

He ensured that the proposed decision to rearm was to be accompanied by a bid to bring about approximate parity in this sector in Europe by means of negotiations with Moscow.

The Americans did not initially go for the idea in a big way, but they later approved it hook, line and sinker, realising the modernisation programme would not otherwise prove feasible.

The smaller Nato countries are keener

Continued on page 4

IN THIS ISSUE

The next issue of THE GERMAN TRIBUNE will be on 6 January.



Time to relax: four of the delegates to the Nato nuclear arms conference in Brussels together at the British Embassy after the hard work was over. From left, the West German Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the American Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Cyrus Vance, and foreign ministers Jean Francois-Poncet and Lord Carrington of France and Britain respectively. (Photo: dpa)

Nato decision builds up internal tension

Frankfurter Rundschau

Nato faces the prospect of internal tension on a level it has never known before, as a result of its decision to go ahead with modernising its tactical nuclear strike capability.

The decision, taken by foreign and defence ministers, has been in the pipeline for months.

But this does not change the fact that this is the first time Nato has over-ridden the declared intention of parliamentary majorities in member states.

The decision involves the manufacture, by the United States, of new medium-range nuclear missiles to be stationed in Western Europe from 1983 unless the Soviet Union agrees to negotiate on Nato's terms.

The modernisation programme was endorsed by the North Atlantic Council, but with reservations by a number of member-countries.

What is more, it is a decision that is sure, as no responsible politician would for a moment deny, to affect the Soviet people's sense of security.

The effect on readiness to practise solidarity may well have repercussions for a very long time indeed.

Security will certainly be the loser no matter how much parity is negotiated on nuclear weapons in and around Europe.

Nato governments have made a succession of mistakes despite the best of intentions, starting with the statesmen

Continued on page 4

Dutch premier gives Bonn nuclear deal assurance

Dutch Premier Andries van Agt was in Bonn for talks with Chancellor Schmidt and Foreign Minister Genscher on the eve of the Brussels Nato summit.

The Dutch Parliament had voted against plans for the manufacture of new medium-range nuclear missiles for deployment in Western Europe.

But Mr van Agt left Bonn keen to find some way of endorsing the Nato decision regardless.

Herr Schmidt and Herr Genscher certainly did not need to convince him of the need for tactical nuclear modernisation in Nato.

He and Dutch Foreign Minister van der Klaauw had long made it clear that they sympathised with the proposed modernisation programme.

They visited Washington and Bonn to brief the Americans and West Germans on their Parliament's decision, formally at least.

But they took the opportunity of making it clear that they had no intention of torpedoing the Nato programme as a matter of principle.

Helmut Schmidt talked it over with the Dutch Premier, an unassuming, Christian Democrat, on 10 December.

The two men have got on well in recent months. Herr Schmidt even paid Mr van Agt a confidential weekend visit at the Dutch leader's home, not far from the German border, to review Nato problems in private.

Details of this encounter have still not officially been disclosed. Even close associates of the Chancellor's were not briefed on his helicopter hop over the border.

Information was not available in Bonn on 11 December as to whether Herr Schmidt had given the Dutch leader specific advice.

He and Herr Genscher certainly appealed to their Dutch counterparts to endorse a unanimous decision by the North Atlantic Council in Brussels.

The Chancellor explained to Mr van Agt how he had succeeded in convincing the Social Democratic party conference in West Berlin of the need to back arms modernisation and arms control plans by Nato.

"But he has a much tougher time in his party than the Chancellor does in the SPD," one Bonn diplomat commented.

One helpful point may have been that Herr Schmidt and Herr Genscher reiterated their desire for arms control talks with the Soviet Union.

President Carter emphasised this point in Washington talks with Mr van Agt, Norwegian Premier Odvar Nordli and Danish Foreign Minister Olesen.

The Nato summit in Brussels also urged the US Senate to ratify Salt 2, since Salt is seen as the linchpin of Nato's stand.

Negotiations with Moscow on a limitation of medium-range nuclear missiles are due to form part of the Salt 3 package.

Bernt Conrad
(Die Welt, 12 December 1979)

■ THE EEC

Heated debate over Euro-MPs underlines difficult problem

Thorny questions about Euro MPs caused heated debate in the Bundestag this month.

Specifically, the issues were about staff and office space for Euro MPs in Bonn.

The Bonn Parliament has resolved that the West German members in Strasbourg, *Luxembourg and Brussels* should be tied more closely to Bonn politics, through the parties in the Bundestag.

However, this agreement in principle has proved a little more difficult in practice.

The CDU/CSU plus the FDP took the most generous line. They wanted Euro MPs of the three parties to have a total of 38 offices in Bonn.

But the SPD wanted them to have just a few liaison offices.

Argument for the latter view is that the 38 offices would have an annual rent of DM285,000. In addition, the space taken up would force elsewhere sections of the Bundestag Scientific Service.

Another problem to raise its head was the question of staff for any new offices.

It is not generally realised that behind this dispute is an apparently insoluble problem: arranging co-operation between Bundestag and Europarliament.

Ties between the two have been secured by *double mandate*: so before the European elections in June, 38 MPs sat both in Bonn and in Europe.

It was difficult to work in both parliaments at the same time.

But one advantage was that a link was forged between both assemblies.

The situation changed drastically after the election to Europe on 10 June: 81 directly elected German MPs now have the double task of representing their large European constituencies and fulfilling the many functions required in the EEC.

But the previous links between Bonn and Euro assemblies naturally weakened.

And the number of MPs who have seats in both the European Parliament and the Bundestag is likely to dwindle to a very few exceptions after the *autumn 1980 Bundestag election*.

There are, first of all, the parliamentary parties providing the tie between Europarliament and Bundestag. They are at liberty to change their statutes so as to enable future EuroMPs to take part in the conferences of parliamentary parties and their working groups.

The Free Democrats in the Bundestag recently decided to form a new working group dubbed "Europe". This body will consist of representatives of all other working groups and representatives of the Liberals in the Europarliament.

CDU/CSU and the SPD have meanwhile followed suit. But this way of forging a link with Bonn politics creates new problems.

Even now, the individual MPs of the two big parties hardly get a word in edgeways at party meetings due to shortage of time.

The situation would become even worse if 40 additional participants were to crowd the conference rooms of the CDU/CSU and the SPD.

Moreover, advisory participation in the internal decision making processes of the parties aimed at influencing decisions would presuppose coordinated timing of party sessions in Bonn, Strasbourg or Luxembourg.

Party political cooperation on various levels can of course not replace an institutionalised link between Europarliament and Bundestag.

A number of national representations in the Europarliament have taken advantage of this fact by forming special committees for EC affairs to coordinate the work of the two parliamentary bodies.

For the Bundestag this can only mean that it will henceforth have to put more emphasis on the fact that the meshing of European Community policy on a parliamentary plane calls for new organisational setups.

It would therefore be useful to establish a permanent Europe Committee of the Bundestag. But since full membership of Euro-MPs in this committee is questionable in terms of the Constitution, the Euro-members of the committee might have to be given rights of admission and of speech only. This would only require an amendment of the Bundestag procedural regulations.

Such a new Europe Committee would not compete with other specialised committees. Instead, it would help coordinate all drafts that are important in terms of Euro-policy, thus speeding up the work.

Though the determination of the Bonn representatives to influence decisions of the Council of Ministers has been relatively underdeveloped hitherto, this could change drastically.

Even with additional authority to control the EC executive branch — an authority for which the Europarliament still has to fight — Bonn representatives in the EC Council of Ministers will have to be subjected to additional controls by the Bundestag.

The intensification of such controls and the forging of a legislative link between the Europarliament and the national assemblies should be reason enough for the Bundestag to explore new avenues and to extend its committee system by a special Committee for European Affairs.

Klaus Kessler

(Deutsche Zeitung, 7 December 1979)

Parliament throws out the Brussels budget

Lübecker Nachrichten

The European Parliament has made use of its ultimate weapon to give the EEC Council of Ministers a piece of its mind.

By an overwhelming majority Euro MPs, elected last June, have voted against the 1980 Common Market budget estimates submitted in Strasbourg.

The EEC Commission and Council of Ministers must now draw up a new set of estimates to be submitted to the European Assembly, referred to the Council of Ministers and so on.

This will take three to four months, during which time the European Community will only be empowered to spend, and to do so a month at a time, a twelfth of the 1979 expenditure.

So the Nine now have another crisis to deal with, the first being the dispute between Britain and the other eight over Whitehall's share of EEC finances.

One may well ask whether voters from Sicily to Greenland will either understand or approve of this demonstration of power by the Strasbourg MPs.

If the 288 members who threw out the 1980 budget had patently done so because Common Agricultural Policy was proving too expensive, at least the situation would have been clear, and everyone would have been able to form a judgement.

But some had other reasons. Many were more upset by the Council of Ministers' DM1.3bn cuts on a number of items MPs had specially included in their amendments so as to promote regional, social and research policies.

Many observers who have argued for years the case for democratisation of the EEC might have felt a battle had been won had not some Euro-MPs been determined to reject the 13 December budget proposals come what may.

They did not care what readiness to compromise the Council of Ministers might have shown in joint deliberations with the European Parliament the day before.

A Euro-MP's lot in Strasbourg is more frustrating than many members first elected last June will have appreciated beforehand.

This too will have been a motivating factor behind the Strasbourg assembly's decision to cock a snook at Brussels.

Erich Hauser

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 14 December 1979)

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Editor-in-Chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. – Distribution Manager: Georgine von Platen.

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 23 Schoene Aussicht, Hamburg 76, Tel.: 22 85 1, Telex: 02-14733.

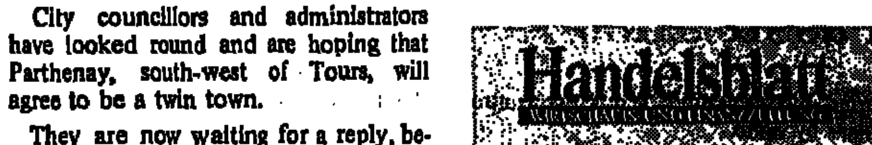
Advertising rates list No. 13 – Annual subscription DM 35.

Printed by Druck- und Verlagshaus Friedrich Pörtner, Bremen-Blumenthal. Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprints are published in cooperation with the editorial staffs of leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of Germany. They are complete translations of the original text, in no way abridged nor editorially redrafted. THE GERMAN TRIBUNE also publishes quarterly supplements featuring articles selected from German periodicals.

In all correspondence please quote your subscription number which appears on the wrapper, between asterisks, above your address.

More cities in line for a foreign 'twin'




German cites are seeking foreign counterparts for "twinning" arrangements.

Weinstadt, a district capital in a winegrowing area, is for example, seeking a partner in France.

City councillors and administrators have looked round and are hoping that Parthenay, south-west of Tours, will agree to be a twin town.

They are now waiting for a reply, because they want the wedding to take place before the New Year.

The Weinstadters chafe at the fact that the roadsign at the city gates lacks the inscription "Partner City of ...".

Such roadsigns can now be found outside many German towns, and some have more than one partner.

Offenbach near Frankfurt, for instance, now boasts 10 partner cities, while Frankfurt proper has only three.

But even that is quite a lot compared with Düsseldorf, Bremen and Bonn which, like Berlin, have one partner each.

Their attitude is: "It's not quantity but quality that matters."

What they want are as close and lively ties as possible. But this is not always easy to achieve.

More than 800 such partnerships with cities abroad were concluded by the end of last year, 15 per cent more than four years earlier.

Many new partnerships have been established since. It is now primarily the smaller towns that seek such ties.

Preparations have been much more thorough lately because word has got around that many old marriages have wound up on the rocks. For many partners, the ties exist only on paper or are strained and tedious.

This type of partnership requires tender care. Mere visits by the city brass are not enough unless supported by visits back and forth by the people themselves.

But this is very difficult in marriages between cities that are far removed from each other — say in Africa or Asia.

The reasons for city partnerships have also changed. After the war, many municipalities simply wanted to bury the hatchet and start from scratch.

As a result, it was frequently former enemies who sought contacts with each other which eventually led to partnerships.

Today, it is mostly common problems such as city rehabilitation, environmental issues, refuse removal and the like which bring cities with similar structures together.

The motivation is understandable since they can learn from each other and thus benefit.

Especially in France, there are many cities on the waiting list, hoping to find a partner in Germany.

France, with its 300 partnerships with German cities, is in the lead anyway, followed by Britain with about 140.

dpa

(Handelsblatt, 6 December 1979)

■ HOME AFFAIRS

Strauss speech unexpected bonus for the Opposition

Franz Josef Strauss must have been painfully aware of the wretched quality of his speech in the Bundestag.

After it he did not say a word. He just sat down next to Bavarian representative Peter Schmidhuber and buried his head in his papers.

Meanwhile, CDU MP Schröder (Lüneburg) entertained the half-empty chamber with irrelevant remarks about the quality of the Chancellor's Office building, the poor atmosphere among the staff, just to pass the time until Bavarian Prime Minister Strauss, the CDU/CSU's first speaker, made his entrance.

An Opposition colleague said afterwards that if Strauss had not made this speech he would have kept some of his feared and respected aura.

After the 90-minute speech, there was no handshaking or backslapping and only moderate applause from the Opposition ranks, telling the candidate for the chancellorship that he had failed.

Strauss's performance threw the whole course of the debate out of joint. Chancellor Schmidt found his opponent's performance so far below par that he did not, as expected, reply directly to it.

Iron discipline maintained

The SPD/FDP played their part in Strauss's debacle by not interrupting him, sticking to the iron discipline imposed by SPD floor leader Herbert Wehner, who did not want to give Strauss any opportunity to improvise.

The SPD and FDP knew that once Strauss gets going he can make a strong impression on voters despite his often extreme invective.

As it was, the Bavarian Prime Minister had to stick to his 60 page manuscript,

Frankfurter Rundschau

reading out his "spontaneous" ideas and gags.

All the while he faced Herr Wehner, sitting opposite, who enjoyed the spectacle of the Opposition leader's confusion.

After 30 minutes of the speech, pro-CDU/CSU journalists in the press section asked "what's happened to the Strauss we used to know?"

The press photographers were also dismayed that they could not get a single good picture.

"None of these pictures is any good. He is just reading from his manuscript." said one.

What a contrast with the speech of Rainer Barzel, CDU/CSU candidate for the chancellorship in 1972.

Whereas Strauss appeared to be a tired fighter with dull rhetoric, beating away ineffectually at the chancellor, Barzel proved a skilled and agile opponent.

Strauss described Schmidt as a "dyed-in-the-wool socialist" with much in common even with *the left in his party*.

Barzel, on the other hand, adopted the tack of ironically defending Schmidt against attacks from his own ranks.

And it was Barzel who was the target of "Uncle" Herbert Wehner's full fury. Barzel also addressed Strauss in exaggeratedly respectful terms as Mr Prime Minister.

After Barzel, there were bravos, handshaking and backslapping, which clearly did the Opposition's morale good.

Strauss did not lift a finger to congratulate his once-so-distained rival for the chancellorship candidature. Strauss's supporters in the press section said he had lost his identity. And in the lobby, SPD MPs said that Wehner's policy had come off.

"Strauss is forced to speak continually into a vacuum."

Not even his political friends gave him much moral support. Indeed they put him off.

Strauss accused the Chancellor of not knowing the most important facts about pensions, at which someone in the CDU ranks shouted: "That's not true, he knows them perfectly well, and he is misleading pensioners."

This completely put Strauss off and he had difficulty cracking the "spontaneous" *joke at Schmidt's expense in* his manuscript.

At the end, Strauss even forgot to declare his wish for a TV confrontation with Schmidt. Perhaps this was a deliberate omission, a wise estimation of his own limitations.

His enemy, Barzel, proved his by winning the TV struggle of the challengers.

And this long before the Chancellor spoke in the late afternoon and showed who the real winner was.

Rolf-Dietrich Schwartz

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 12 December 1979)

Shadow Chancellor's failure helps Schmidt, Barzel

The debate on the Chancellor's Office budget is traditionally used by the Opposition to attack the Chancellor's policy.

This year the attack was led by the Bavarian Prime Minister and Opposition candidate for the chancellorship, Franz Josef Strauss. Strauss is no longer a member of the Bundestag, but was entitled to speak in his capacity of *Land* Prime Minister.

He has, to put it mildly, performed better.

Was Strauss the victim of trying to be as statesmanlike as possible. Or is he still having difficulty adjusting to the role of candidate for the chancellorship?

There is an enormous difference between, on one hand, being CSU leader and firing salvoes from all directions at the SPD/FDP and even the CDU and, on the other, being the first man in the CDU/CSU and having to speak for the opposition as a whole.

Of course it is easy enough to reply to Opposition criticisms by asking: how would you do things better?

Strauss concentrated far too much on the past.

And even when his attacks were justified, for example on the huge government deficit-spending and the mountain of debt that has accumulated in the past to years, they lacked precision.

Strauss's predecessor as candidate for the chancellorship, Rainer Barzel, demonstrated how to use the scalpel of criticism more effectively. Barzel also asked Helmut Schmidt direct, specific questions.

In other words, whoever dissects to years of social-liberal government and claims a monopoly on the ability to provide security for the next ten years must at least outline his concept of how this is to be achieved.

Strauss failed to do this. He was unable to force Schmidt into a corner.

As a result, Schmidt was able to pursue his tactical line of not condescending to give his rivals a direct answer.

Instead, he made his rhetorical, effective remarks in the afternoon, at peak TV viewing time.

Strauss did not seize on the opportunity of making an impromptu reply. And then TV coverage was over.

No one fighting for power should make such mistakes. Why does this happen to a politician who knows every trick in the book.

A passage in his speech reveals the dilemmahefeelsheis in — and indeedisin.

He asked sarcastically what Helmut Schmidt would have done at the SPD conference without him, Strauss.

He said it was grotesque that Schmidt had to ask his party for permission to do what he, his challenger, called on him to do, otherwise he, Schmidt, would have to resign.

Strauss also pointed out that Schmidt could only counter the SPD left with the aid of a strong Opposition in the Bundestag and in the Bundesrat.

This was precisely what Schmidt capitalised on, presenting an image of brave determination when in fact all he was really doing was using the narrow scope which his left-wing comrades on the one hand and the CDU/CSU Opposition on the other allow him.

These are responsibilities and pressures from which the CDU/CSU, as strongest party in the Bundestag and, more importantly, as the majority in the Bundesrat, cannot escape.

Jürgen Lorenz

(Kieler Nachrichten, 12 December 1980)

Death of one of the fathers of modern German politics

Carlo Schmid died this month aged 83. He had long been familiar with the thought of death.

He had put his house in order, written his memoirs and seen them praised and widely read. There was not a word of malice in these memoirs.

But he was saddened by the decline of political manners.

This grand old man from the beginning of our republic, an *homme de lettres* who entered politics after the catastrophe of 1945, was a bourgeois liberal who found a home among the Social Democrats.

He always seemed to be above the hectic, joyless business of the national capital; he personified the yearning for an intact world of order and Latin moderation.

He put the Federal Republic of Germany and the Social Democratic Party on the right path. He could justifiably and proudly say that he had played an important part in the shaping of the Basic Law and the SPD's Godesberg Programme.

As a political philosopher, his aim was to reconcile power and intellect. For 17 years he shaped the style of parliament as deputy speaker of the Bundestag.

At the side of Adenauer he argued with the Russians in the Kremlin, where some years later he had to bury his illusion of German reunification.

To the end, as co-ordinator of Franco-German relations, he helped to bring together two nations to which he felt he belonged.

He would have been a good President, but not a good Chancellor. He lacked the necessary hardness.

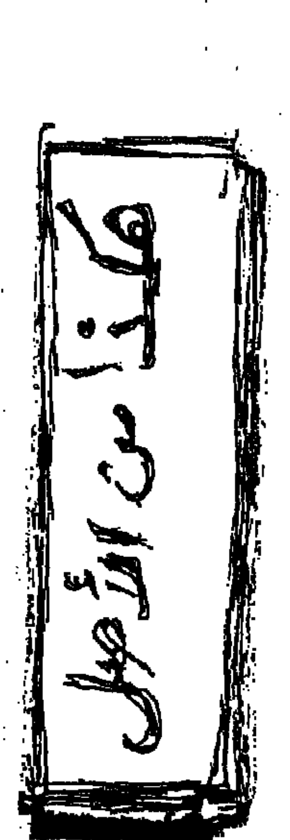
However, his natural dignity, his heartwarming style of speaking, the elegance of his language and his unerring sense of authority, which he preserved in story stormy times, his delight in the beautiful things of life and his genuine friendliness were qualities which truly graced our state.



Carlo Schmid (Photo: Sven Simon)

Konrad Adenauer occasionally asked him ironically if he still believed in human beings. Carlo Schmid never lost this faith to the end.

(Die Zeit, 14 December 1979)



■ INTRA-GERMAN AFFAIRS

GDR 'not in position' to make major concessions to Bonn

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has never attached as much priority to intra-German ties as his predecessor Willy Brandt, yet he has lately sprung a spate of intra-German surprises.

He had stated his intention of holding a "working meeting" with GDR leader Erich Honecker early next year.

He also came up with the eyebrow-raising proposal for regular intra-German consultations along the lines of the Bonn-Paris talks.

One reason why Herr Schmidt's announcements came as such a surprise was that he had always attached particular importance to a meeting with Herr Honecker.

But he was only prepared to meet the East German leader provided substantial results were assured. Are they now in the offing?

It seems most unlikely. The GDR is currently in deep water domestically – economic difficulties for the most part – and definitely not in a position to make major concessions.

Besides, East-West ties in general are none too rosy at present, and intra-German ties have always been linked to their progress.

This being the case, East Berlin is unlikely to be either able or willing to start the ball rolling for either Bonn's sake or Herr Schmidt's.

For Herr Honecker, of course, a visit by Herr Schmidt rates a political success solely by virtue of having taken place; it boosts the prestige of both the East German leader and his state.

Chancellor Schmidt can merely hope that talks with Herr Honecker will have an overall beneficial effect on routine intra-German affairs as supervised by Günter Gaus, Bonn's man in East Berlin.

So why does the Chancellor propose to set foot on such difficult terrain? Why, in the circumstances, has he seen fit to suggest regular consultations?

Having conferred with all other East European leaders he cannot, of course, ostracise the GDR and its leaders for ever. Herr Honecker has stood too long in the wings, especially for a Social Democrat such as Helmut Schmidt.

After all, Herr Schmidt has resisted the temptation to confer with Herr Honecker before the Brussels Nato summit as East Berlin would have liked.

Intra-German summits certainly assume historic dimensions when they only occur once in a decade. Willy Brandt met Willi Stoph in Erfurt and Kassel back in 1970.

But expectations are correspondingly great, and Herr Schmidt, a realist, cannot welcome the extent to which such a meeting is expected to be a resounding success.

Perhaps the best way to forestall exaggerated hopes and subsequent disappointment is to bill intra-German summits as something normal.

Yet it does look as though this was not the main reason why the Chancellor chose his party's West Berlin conference to announce his intention of meeting Herr Honecker.

He seems primarily to have wanted to demonstrate to fellow-Social Democrats that detente is in no danger of abandonment despite Nato decisions on nuclear modernisation.

But will even these expectations be fulfilled? Doubts among Social Democrats have by no means been dispelled, and other setbacks are far from impossible.

What would happen if the GDR were to see fit to resort to unilateral moves such as expelling foreign correspondents and beefing up its penal code? It has happened in the past.

This could prove unpleasant, not to say fatal, for Helmut Schmidt's intra-German initiative, especially in an election year. The Opposition will be watching eagle-eyed.

Heinz Verfürth

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 13 December 1979)

Delicate balance

Continued from page 1

to negotiate first, but the Brussels communiqué diplomatically papers over their misgivings.

Yet the reservations, large or small, Holland and the others have voiced on the stationing of new missiles from 1983 cannot be assessed solely in terms of diplomatic wording.

There can be no overlooking the domestic opposition to nuclear modernisation in these countries; the Dutch and Belgian governments in particular have taken a caning.

Domestic opposition will continue to be relevant, up to and including the day on which a decision on their stationing can be taken.

The Western concept has been upset, and readiness to arm and successful negotiations can no longer be regarded as connecting tubes.

The West's negotiating position is in fact weakened by Moscow being able to suspect that the desire to hold talks is not backed by corresponding readiness to act on nuclear modernisation.

Yet an abrupt change in foreign policy towards the East is nowhere envisaged. After initially sanguine, possibly oversanguine, assessments of detente prospects two points have grown clear:

First, the Soviet Union has maintained its arms build-up, both boosting quality and increasing manpower, thereby upsetting the balance of power in Europe to the West's disadvantage.

Second, there is a need for agreement on approximate military parity. Without it progress towards political detente will lack impetus.

Nato is not embarking on a new round in the arms race, merely trying, be means of a twofold resolution, to eliminate existing imbalance.

Moscow is the challenger on this count, and the Nato decision was both necessary and entirely tenable. One can but wish it had been reached with greater determination and unanimity.

Kurt Becker

(Die Zeit, 13 December 1979)

Doubts over views on united Germany

The Western Allies only want German unity as long as it is impossible, a French university professor told a meeting of Bonn law students.

Alfred Grosser, who was born in Frankfurt, is professor of political science in Paris. He said that the Federal Republic of Germany is not a normal sovereign state and probably would not become one in the forseeable future.

Professor Grosser, both a critic and a friend of the Germans (and occasionally their defender in the Paris daily *Le Monde)* was talking about the roles in the world of Germany and France.

The students appreciated his sense of humour and his brilliant ad lib rhetoric, which should be the envy of many a German professor or politician.

The paradoxical thing about Germany's position, Grosser said, was that the victorious powers in 1945 "are the last cement keeping the German nation together."

He attributed the French identity crisis to his country's loss of its world power position.

The audience was somewhat surprised to hear him say: "What strengthens consensus in France is the nation."

Is this an idea which Germans can no longer comprehend?

National pride and the constant striving for self-assertion and more prestige vis-a-vis the United States, Professor Grosser said, explain many of France's attitudes in European and world politics and its policy towards the USSR.

Conversely, the total defeat of 1945 has "eliminated the prestige element for Germany."

How did post-war France react to its identity crisis? It reacted with the wish to "create Europe" but which Europe?

In this connection, the speaker drew attention to a cartoon in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* depicting a Gallic rooster crowing: "Moi ... moi ... moi!" The caption read: "Europe must speak with one voice."

An essential element in the change of France's European policy, Professor Grosser said, was its relationship with Britain.

After the initial rejection – because France wanted to be the only country to speak on Europe's behalf – Britain's accession to Europe was welcomed because a new fear of the Federal Republic of Germany started spreading in France in 1968.

"Britain was to compensate for Germany's economic supremacy."

How is Europe to look in the future? No-one any longer wants any form of supra-nationality as discussed in the 50s – and this applies in equal measure to the German chancellor and the French president.

Professor Grosser suggested that Giscard was only able to win the last election by dropping certain elements of European policy.

France's attitude towards Europe cannot be termed "rosy." Only in case of a serious threat – as during the Berlin and the Cuban crises – did France show solidarity.

On the question of the German and French communists, Professor Grosser said that sweeping approval of what is happening on the other side," which characterises the German Communist Party, is out of the question for the French communists.

By the same token, the French have little understanding for "Germany's going overboard in its anti-communism."

Brigitte Mohr

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 10 December 1979)

Nato decision

Continued from page 1

in Western European Nato countries who first felt the new Soviet medium-range missiles were an increasing threat.

Bonn was most alarmed. So was [illegible] Yet President Carter was unable to include this missile category in the Salt package; Moscow would hear nothing of it.

Both felt it was more important to come to terms at last (and at least) on limitation of intercontinental missile systems.

Mr Carter yielded to pressure from his partners in Europe by holding forth the prospect of US medium-range missiles – provided at least some Nato countries in Europe undertook to allow them to be stationed on their territory.

Elsewhere the Pershing 2 and long-range Cruise missiles would be of no use to the United States and Congress could not be expected to earmark cash for their development.

All European Nato governments, including those of Holland, Denmark and Norway, were and still are agreed on the strategic options.

They are convinced that unless the Soviet Union stops manufacturing the SS-20 missile the West will have to re-equip with the new US medium-range missiles if Nato's flexible response strategy is to retain credibility.

Given the strategic balance established by the terms of Salt 2, the Soviet Union might otherwise no longer believe the United States was seriously prepared to use nuclear weapons to ward off an East bloc attack.

On the other hand, military pundits disagree whether Western nuclear modernisation will really make Nato's deterrent doctrine more credible.

The Brussels decisions, including the withdrawal from Europe of 1,000 obsolete US nuclear warheads, were as good as ready in October and could have been taken then at a special session of the North Atlantic Council.

But 30 years of Nato tradition seemed to call for a December decision. The flexibility a snap decision would have necessitated was evidently ruled out.

There can be no doubt that the Norwegian, Danish, Dutch and Belgian parliaments were only mobilised to voice reservations in the wake of a massive propaganda campaign by Moscow and its partners in the Warsaw Pact.

The governments of these four countries stand accused of not making sure of parliamentary backing for the Brussels decision in good time.

They were also clearly unable to canvass support for their convictions in the way that German Social Democratic leaders managed to do at their West Berlin party conference.

Security and defence policy are complex and emotion-laden topics on which different historical experience of successive living generations plays an important part.

The current Soviet leadership is definitely not a warmonger, yet time and again it makes use of its power to lean on smaller, weaker states when it feels it will benefit by so doing.

This makes it even more important to see how leading Nato countries plan to set about healing the wounds inflicted at Brussels on the self-confidence of a number of smaller members of the North Atlantic pact.

Erich Hauser

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 12 December 1979)

■ THE MEDIA

Television, radio journalists vote for strike over network changes

Television and radio journalists have voted to strike for four hours this month in protest against plans to change the structure of the North German television and radio network, NDR.

NDR provides programmes for Hamburg, Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony.

But the Christian Democrat governments in Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony propose changes because of alleged political bias in programmes.

The executive of the RFFU (Radio, Television and Film Union), the largest group in the Art Union within the German Federation of Trade Unions, held a ballot.

There was little doubt that members would agree with the executive's decision and strike in protest against the dismemberment of the NDR.

The wrangles among politicians about reorganising the NDR or keeping it in its present form have caused anger and disappointment, not only among journalists.

It is therefore understandable that the journalists are not content with a mere verbal protest.

However, the strike call could create new problems.

Strikes are clearly allowed according to this country's labour legislation.

However, article 9 of the Basic Law says that the purpose of strikes must be to improve working or conditions or pay. In the case of the proposed strike, only those working for the NDR could claim that this is the purpose of their strike – in contrast with journalists working for other TV and radio stations.

In radio and TV stations, strikes are directed against the employer, represented by the director. In this case, the director can do nothing to remove the cause of the strike.

This underlines the futility of the action. Nor can the supervisory committees of the NDR meet the RFFU demands.

The decision is entirely in the hands of the politicians responsible for prolonging the present NDR agreement or producing a new one.

Because the RFFU is also aware of this, its assurances that the strike is also about the personal and financial consequences the dismemberment of the NDR would have on the entire German TV network sound half-hearted.

Most RFFU officials regard this strike as what it is: a political strike to create or intensify pressure on the *Land* governments.

The main means of increasing this pressure is to mobilise the general public, and this is clearly the aim. But here too there are many imponderables.

Are the viewers in the south of Germany really interested in the wrangles about the NDR which have been going on for over two years?

Will the strike not anger many viewers who will wonder what this media decision has got to do with them – viewers who have enough complaints about the quality of programmes as it is.

The RFFU has called the one-night strike for 8pm, which means that advertising – which comes en bloc before 8pm – will not be affected and there is no danger of advertisers claiming their money back.

Does not this indicate to the public that the RFFU is exploiting the quasi-civil servant status of public corporation journalists to the full and avoiding the least economic risk?

The preconditions for this strike are poor, from the moral and from the legal point of view.

The parent body of Germany's regional first channels, is ARD, whose President Friedrich von Sell has already said that "suitable measures" will be taken against the strike plans at "the appropriate time".

Albert Scharf, deputy director of Bavarian Television, said he would even consider legal moves, such as injunctions, to prevent the strike.

This would mean the RFFU had started a new dispute between the management of the radio and TV stations and the journalists' representatives.

This would only confuse viewers even more, as both sides have already said they want to keep the NDR in its present form as a three-*Land* broadcasting corporation and as a major contributor to the national TV and radio network (ARD).

The RFFU says that the strike is strictly limited and is more of a demonstration than a labour dispute measure.

However, the planned course of decisions within the union – first the ballot in the NDR, then the ballot in the other ARD stations – deprives the strike of all appearance of spontaneity.

Whichever side one looks at it from, the planned RFFU strike is a political strike. RFFU members have, as journalists, stated in the past that political strikes are not allowed.

Karl-Otto Saur

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 5 December 1979)

'A solution' for ailing Hamburg daily

The Social Democrats parliamentary party leader, Herbert Wehner, has called on people to buy blocks of shares in the ailing Hamburg popular daily newspaper, *Morgenpost*.

Herr Wehner launched the appeal at the end of the party conference in Berlin, and suggested that the shares could go in lots of DM1,000 and DM5,000.

The newspaper, which is controlled by the party, has lost DM60m over the past 10 years, and the deficit has come out of party funds.

Herr Wehner's action was no more than a gesture. Unless a miracle occurs, the days of the paper are numbered.

The management of the SPD media company, Konzentration Ltd, has the death of numerous Social Democratic newspapers on its conscience.

It proved its incompetence once again in the final phase of negotiations on the *Morgenpost*.

The attempts to save the paper were doomed because there was no direct connection between the decision to stop publication and the negotiations to keep it alive.

The regret over the affair should not lead to the conclusion that this is too much of a loss, from a point of view of quality.

Unlike far better SPD papers – the *Berlin Telegraf*, the *Hamburg Echo* and the *Lübeck Morgen* to name but three, – the *Morgenpost* in recent years the paper was no more than a poor copy of *Bild Zeitung*, another of the papers normally known as "populars".

As so often, the blame does not lie with those who put party cards above journalistic quality and economic necessity.

No, of course the others are to blame. Now that the SPD, by its own fault, has thinned out the press scene in the city, it will be all the easier to complain about "monopolists."

Hamburg's mayor Klose (SPD), who has been credited with advocating a newspaper run on similar lines to a public corporation, sees the death of the *Morgenpost* as an affirmation of his policy for NDR, the North German radio and television network.

Of course this works two ways: because the SPD has failed in the private sector, it is hanging on desperately to the public corporation structure for the new media.

Bodo Schulte

(Nordwest Zeitung, 7 December 1979)

Almost total turnout in union ballot

The ballot among RFFU (Radio TV and Film Union) member journalists in the NDR (North German television and radio network) has proved the sceptics wrong: 82 per cent have voted for a warning strike.

Those who claimed that some journalists were exaggerating the strength of feeling about the dismemberment of the NDR have been proved wrong.

The result is all the more impressive as the turnout was almost 100 per cent. So there can be no talk of an unrepresentative minority.

The militancy of NDR journalists does not allow us to draw similar conclusions about the militancy of journalists working for other stations.

These journalists are not directly affected by the demise of the NDR in its present form. Their jobs are not directly affected. And so the warnings expressed by the station directors about the legal objections to the strike will be weighed carefully.

Finally, it has to be assumed here that the viewers out of the affected area (Hamburg, Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony) are less informed about what the dispute is about.

On the other hand, the clear vote in the NDR may have an effect on the other stations and possibly persuade journalists to take this unusual step into an area fraught with legal and political uncertainties.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 11 December 1979)

■ TRADE

Developing nations make fundamental change at Gatt meeting

Developing countries made a sharp policy about-turn at the plenary session in Geneva of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt).

They suddenly came out in favour of secure, free and open world trade — as advocated by Gatt.

This is in sharp contrast to their long-held view that Gatt was a club of capitalists and imperialists and that the time was ripe for a new international economic order involving more control by the State.

The industrialised countries, on the other hand, who have always been the defenders of a market economy, all of a sudden reveal themselves as protectionists, notwithstanding their lip service to liberalism.

The Geneva meeting was for the formal closing of the Tokyo Round.

This lasted for six years and dealt with further tariff reductions; the removal of other trade barriers; and the introduction into the Gatt system of the agreement reached in the course of the talks.

In the spring, still, some Third World spokesmen complained that they had been short-changed in the course of the talks.

Meanwhile, however, they seem to have discovered that they have benefited quite considerably and that Gatt can offer them at least the same, if not more, concrete trade and development advantage as Unctad.

The 1947 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade lays down the rights and obligations of the participating countries.

But it is also an organisation that acts as a watchdog and controls the use of the provisions, mostly through the tedious and unheralded work of various committees.

In a process of almost permanent negotiation, the system of rules and regulations is constantly adapted to new economic conditions. It thus has a major influence on international trade policy.

Now that the Philippines, Mexico and Colombia, have joined, Gatt will have 87 members. In addition, there are some 20 former colonial areas which apply the Gatt system without formally belonging.

Most oil countries, on the other hand, and some communist states, among them the Soviet Union, East Germany and China, are not part of the system.

The basic principles of Gatt are the most favoured nation status, non-discrimination and reciprocal concessions.

Based on these principles, trade barriers are to be removed as far as possible and uniform rules introduced for those barriers that remain.

A country that deviates from these rules (due to a lack of ready cash problems or because it considers certain branches of its industry threatened by imports) must justify its move to the other partners and compensate for it by concessions.

If necessary, those countries that are adversely affected may defend themselves through countermeasures such as withdrawing concessions they themselves have made or the imposing of offset levies.

The six major rounds of talks, favoured by the boom that lasted until the early 70s. have made considerable progress in removing tariffs and quotas.

The continuation of those talks in the seventh, the Tokyo Round, resembled a "forward retreat" due to monetary and growth problems marked by inflation and unemployment.

The delegates held that only further liberalisation of trade could counter the rising protectionism as a result of international economic woes.

Only such liberalisation could put on enough pressure to adjust national economic structures to changes in the international division of labour.

These changes were because of development and industrialisation in the Third World, technological changes and the shortage and rising prices of energy and important raw materials.

But to keep this changing process orderly, the objective of further liberalisation needed increased disciplining of world trade.

Efforts aimed at the further opening of markets and better access to them through tariff reductions and, lately, the removal of non-tariff trade barriers have been buttressed by efforts to further improve the existing rules of the game.

This especially, applies to governing protective measures, and to tighten them in a way that would take into account; special cases on the one hand; and better protection against violation and abuse of economic power on the other.

The Tokyo Round resulted in agreements on tariff reductions averaging about 30 per cent and on new rules. The purpose of these is to reduce or make more uniform the adverse effect on trade of technical standards, export subsidies, offset levies, inequities in valuing goods for the purpose of customs duties, import licences and the (non)-acceptance of foreign tenders for public sector work.

But the final brick in the renovated Gatt structure is still missing: new regulations for the application of so-called protective clauses that would permit measures against imports that threaten a specific branch of industry.

Such measures are to remain permissible but the provisions governing them will be stricter, as will the criteria for their introduction and the attendant controls.

They will also include agreements on self-restriction.

The industrialised countries are primarily interested in measures to prevent a deterioration of the market while the developing countries want safeguards against any abuse of power.

The Geneva meeting resolved that the unsuccessful negotiations in the Tokyo Round concerning this issue be continued and brought to a conclusion as soon as possible.

But Gatt will not be twiddling its thumbs after the Tokyo Round closes. Instead, it will seek further progress.

The objectives will be further pragmatic steps towards trade liberalisation.

Wolfram van den Wyenbergh

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 5 December 1979)

'Recession risk' in policy of Bundesbank

A recession next year is almost certain unless the Bundesbank changes its tight money policy, says the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW).

It says that the inertia caused by the restrictive policies is particularly damaging. The policy was "evidently to curb wage demands" in the next round of collective bargaining.

And this would mean that this tight money policy would have to continue until about the end of March.

Should this happen, DIW maintains, a recession would be almost certain.

It recommends a change, but with an increased money supply within the upper limits of the Bundesbank's target of five to eight per cent.

According to DIW, this would hardly affect the outcome of the 1980 collective bargaining round.

In fact, it could even act as a signal to indicate that the true economic position is worse that it was said to be.

The Institute accuses the Bundesbank of having glossed over the true economic developments.

The position, it says, has deteriorated in the past few months.

Forecasts of the economic research institutes, which only last October were generally though to be too pessimistic (they predicted a 2.5 per cent growth) are thus becoming increasingly more realistic.

"The available economic data give rise to the question whether the forecasts did not err on the optimistic side," says DIW.

It operates on the assumption that the "withdrawal effect" caused by increased petroleum prices on the domestic market could not be offset by added demand from the Opec countries.

But the economic policy making bodies have not geared their policy to replacing the demand shortage by added indebtedness of the public sector, reducing this instead.

Business and private households cannot take up more credit, if for no other reason because of increased interest rates. Nor is a diminished savings quota with its stimulating effects on the economy likely.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 6 December 1979)

Swings and roundabouts in balances of payment

The combined balance of payments of Western industrialised nations is likely to have deteriorated more this year than had been forecast, says the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW).

Contrary to original assumptions, the counterpart to the greatly increased surpluses of petroleum producing countries is not the deficits of non-Opec developing nations, but those of the industrialised countries.

But there are vast differences in the way the balance of payments of the individual national economies has changed.

The balances of formerly long-term surplus countries like the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan now show a deficit while the deficit of the United States has decreased considerably.

France and Italy, particularly hard hit by the 1973/74 oil crisis, have this time better managed to weather foreign trade problems.

Generally, the current account balance sheets of the industrialised countries now show less differences and the increased deficit has been more evenly distributed than after the 1973/74 oil shock.

But even this levelling has not prevented exchange rate turbulences, affecting primarily the dollar and the yen.

The rate of inflation, which varied considerably from country to country, and the tight money policies with which individual countries tried to counter it, have led to speculative exchange rate fluctuations.

According to DIW pundits, the countermeasures were often excessive.

The fight against inflation now has top priority in the United States and Britain.

But Britain's economic strategy, DIW says, has actually considerably quickened the rate of inflation.

Stepped up anti-inflationary measures by London could well induce other countries to engage in a policy of tighter money for current account reasons.

This would lead to a race between the individual nations in the course of which interest rate increases would escalate.

According to DIW, this could have a most damaging effect on the individual national economies.

(Handelsblatt, 6 December 1979)

INFLATION — at close range

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT

1979 prices: 152,7 153,6 154,8 155,4 156,0 156,7 157,7 157,8 158,0 158,5 (interim)

1978 prices: 148,4 149,2 149,7 150,1 150,5 150,8 150,8 150,4 150,0 150,0

Index 100 as of 1970

Percentage increase on year before

Including: oil-based increase

■ AGRICULTURE

Farmers forced to wait for cash as EEC budget is held up

The EEC agricultural fund ran out of money last month. Exporters of farm produce who should have been paid could not collect.

This happened because the Europarliament refused to pass a DM2bn supplementary budget.

Though the Euro-MPs rightly maintain that the Commission was late in presenting the budget, the Brussels Eurocrats believe that the real reason is that the MPs wanted to flex their muscle.

The new European Parliament, which in the first three months made headlines primarily through its internal squabbles, is beginning to feel its oats.

A couple of weeks ago, Europarliament Speaker Simone Veil and a group of smart budget experts demonstrated to the Council of Ministers that the days are gone when the Council could do what it wanted in matters of money.

Touching upon a holy cow

Though the Parliament's authority in budgetary matters is limited, its very first attack in that direction caused quite a stir when the Euro-MPs touched upon the holy cow of agricultural spending.

But even the old Parliament last year put the ministers on the spot when it determinedly demanded that the Regional Fund that supports economically weak areas be increased. Much of the parliament's demands was accepted in the end. But this time the parliament is actually making policy.

The finance ministers in a night session rejected the parliament's demands for amendments. But this is not the last word.

A second round of talks with the Europarliament is due in mid-December and the ministers will have to make concessions.

Part of the Europarliament's limited scope of action is its authority to turn down the budget as a whole.

In that case, a new budget based on the spending of 1979 would have to be drafted — and the ministers are unlikely to let it come to that.

Even more difficult for the Council of Ministers was the parliament's proposal that DM700m be removed from the fund for the financing of milk surpluses and paid into the structural fund for agriculture.

There were long debates on this point because the ministers had no choice but to concede that the demand was justified. Furthermore, the Italian and Dutch ministers backed the parliament; but this would have required a majority, which was not there.

The matter required considerable political acrobatics. The British, for instance, who have for years been demanding that the high cost of milk surpluses be cut down, suddenly opposed the change.

They were worried that, through cutbacks in the guarantee fund, parliament could assume the right to interfere with agricultural spending as a whole, which was hitherto considered inviolate. This apprehension evidently gained the upper hand over the previously stubbornly upheld demand to tackle agricultural policy at last.

It will be interesting to see how Britain's Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, will explain this about face in Brussels at the EEC summit in Dublin.

In any event, Britain is determined to pay less into Community coffers, and the issue of agricultural spending (it will reach DM26bn next year) has been thrown into the politician's lap by the parliament — even if the basis in law for such an action on the part of the MPs is controversial.

In an official statement, the ministers have already said that they "sympathised" and that they, too, felt that changes in agricultural policy were necessary.

However, France was not prepared to go along with this.

There have been indications for some time that it will not be possible in the future to continue pursuing common agricultural policy unhampered.

In the old parliament, the agriculture lobby was strongly represented and the conservative majority rejected occasional attempts at bringing about changes.

But among the new MPs the proposals for a change found a majority that was unwilling to perpetuate the taboo. Even large segments of the Christian Democrats in the Europarliament are now willing to carry out reforms.

Supported by the now self-confident parliament, a few weeks ago the Commission also came forward with new proposals on how to cut surplus production and the ever-growing cost of it.

Earlier attempts to stem the cost avalanche have always foundered on the majority of agriculture ministers who were mostly unwilling to go along with more than minor changes. This co-operation between parliament and Commission has created a new situation.

The agriculture ministers have meanwhile also come to realise that things cannot continue as they are. But they differ considerably in the degree to which they appreciate the need for reform and, above all, on where they are to be made.

The French have so far been the most stubborn defenders of the existing system. They have always viewed the common agricultural policy as the very foundation of the Community. Britain, which benefits very little from the agricultural market, has for years been fighting against surplus production.

Italy, though also among the critics, has shown restraint lately because it recently started getting more benefits.

The German position is marked by great caution. Behind closed doors, the Chancellor has never made any bones about the fact he considers the policy feebleminded.

But foreign policy considerations, especially for French interests, and the need at home to tread softly because of the FDP and its agriculture minister, Josef Ertl, have prevented Herr Schmidt from doing anything.

Opposition to more funds

But now the poor financial position also calls for action. Expenditure is rapidly reaching the limit of available funds, and both the Chancellor and the French president oppose further increases.

Thus the axe will have to fall somewhere. But even so, it is difficult to imagine that any major cuts in the incomes of German farmers are likely in the election year of 1980.

All that remains as a way out is stepped up national assistance or, ultimately, as Minister Ertl holds, increased Community revenues.

Heinz Stadlmann

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 26 November 1979)

CAP: counting the cost

1979 EEC budget totals DM36.4bn

Including:

Agricultural policy DM27.1bn, or 74 %

11.1	Milk and dairy products
4.0	Food grains
2.5	Sugar
1.7	Beef
1.5	Fats
1.1	Fruit and veg
1.0	Structural improvements
4.1	Miscellaneous

Up-market image of German produce boosts national export figures

The Federal Republic of Germany is providing more and more of Europe's food.

Only 30 years ago, the Germans were known as "krauts", a nation devoted to sauerkraut and without sense for the better things of the table.

But now German eating tastes are as good as anything in the world.

And German food is found as a matter of course in kitchens in places as far apart as Sicily and the Hebrides.

"Today, we export more cheese to Italy than France exports to Germany," says Helmut Fahrnschon, manager of the Central Marketing Company of German Agriculture (CMA).

Agricultural exports include everything from bull sperm to sparkling wine.

And yet, hardly anyone thinks of agriculture when export problems plague our economy. But German farming ranks third in this country export statistics, behind the automobile industry and electrical engineering.

Exports of agricultural produce have increased by almost 400 per cent in the past 10 years. They rose from DM3.4bn in 1966 to DM9.96n in 1975, hitting the DM12.8bn mark last year.

In the first eight months of this year alone, exports of produce rose by 14.2 per cent to a staggering DM9.7bn.

Though an industrialised country, Germany now ranks fifth as a food exporter globally. It has held ninth place in 1971. Its exports are topped by the United States, France, Holland and Brazil.

But of course, Germany's farmers do not export coffee and tobacco which account for major shares in the agricultural exports of some other countries.

Dairy products, meat and meat products account for 40 per cent of agricultural exports.

In fact, in dairy products Germany is second after New Zealand.

Even the natives of Madagascar appreciate German yoghurt. And in cheese, Germany now tops Switzerland and is rapidly catching up with the two leading nations, France and Holland.

German bull sperm for artificial insemination is a favourite world wide. This country's cattle farmers were undaunted by the difficulty of transporting live animals and the possible danger of loss through foot and mouth disease.

The solution to the problem was the export of sperm to countries with highly developed cattle farming such as Argentina.

And many a filet mignon served in Argentinian steak restaurants in Germany stems from the progeny of German bulls.

Japan imports German kirsch schnaps, known as *Kirschwasser*, though the "wasser" part of the word must not be taken literally.

The Japanese having developed a taste for things German, exports of hops and brewery malt to Japan have also risen greatly in the past few years. The Japanese make their own beer with German ingredients and mostly with the help of a German brewmaster.

But in the overall context of agricultural exports, barley, hops and sperm play a relatively small role.

What counts in the export sector are butter (22 per cent of output), cheese (23 per cent), canned milk (28 per cent), sugar (28 per cent) seed (39 per cent), wheat (24 per cent) and calves (22 per cent).

The most important buyers of those goods are Italy (1978: DM2.7bn), France (DM1.8bn), Holland (1.6bn) and the Benelux countries (1bn).

Not all importing countries are happy with the trend. For example, Italian estate owners are trying to stem the tide of German cheese.

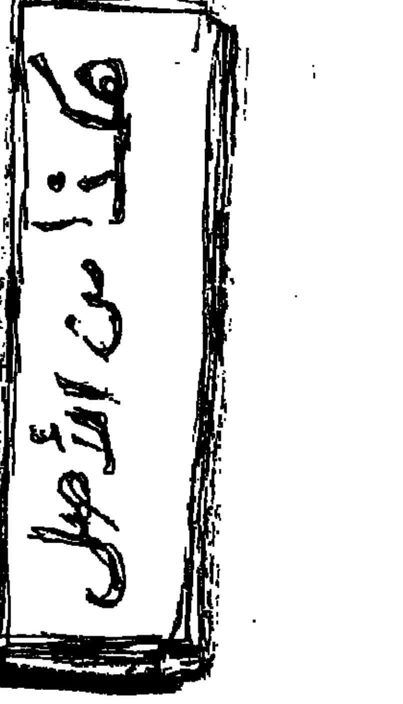
In TV commercials and advertisement in the press they call on their fellow countrymen to "Eat Italian".

But there is no stemming the tide, and exports to Italy are growing and growing.

Peter Jentsch

(Die Welt, 28 November 1979)





■ SAFETY AT WORK

Most accidents can be avoided if workers are aware of risks

It takes more than money and safety engineering to stop industrial accidents. Safety entails men as well as machines.

Experts have long agreed that a man who takes care at work will be less liable to injury than one who relies on others to look after his safety.

It is no good relying on the boss, on workmates, on the works council or on factory inspectors.

Latest figures are analysed in a report compiled by the West German *Berufsgenossenschaften*, or industrial accident insurance schemes.

It concentrates on 164,000 head, eye and toe injuries that between them accounted for 10 per cent of claims in the period under review.

Most could have been prevented, the report concludes, if only personal protective equipment had been available or used.

Personal protective equipment means helmets and ear plugs, goggles and safe footwear, protective clothing, gloves and hairnets (for men too!).

You might think it would go without saying that they all ought to be worn where necessary, but perfectionists suspect people who state this simple fact of standing in the way of progress.

Their argument is that all workplaces should be designed and equipped with such attention to safety requirements that helmets and protective clothing are no longer needed.

They gained unexpected support from Bonn Labour Minister Herbert Ehrenberg at a recent Düsseldorf conference on safety at work and labour medicine.

Noise abatement, he said, was still a very much neglected subject, often amounting to no more than the provision of earplugs or soundproof headphones for staff:

"The elimination of noise at source as prevention rather than cure is not given enough attention."

He may have had in mind a demonstration at the International Textile Machinery Fair last October when union officials played tape recordings to show that textile machinery is often noisier than the law allows.

Manufacturers replied that the noise level of slow machines had been reduced from well over 100 to 80 or 90 decibels.

International competitors, they innocently added, were operating machines up to six times faster, which naturally increased noise levels.

Thus secondary protection, in other words ear plugs, was indispensable.

It is only fair to add that new machinery on show at the fair was so much quieter that secondary protection may one day prove unnecessary.

But there is no excuse for not providing the necessary protection in the meantime, especially as there are many sectors in which it will never be dispensable.

So an adverse judgment on helmets and ear plugs would tend to paralyse rather than promote safety consciousness at work, irresponsibly impeding safety training when a heightened awareness of danger and determination to seek protection from it are needed.

The industrial accident insurance schemes' report, compiled by Dr Wolfgang Abt, deals with a number of trouble spots.

In 1977 there were 47,050 reported cases of industrial accidents involving brain damage. Construction workers were hardest hit, followed by transport workers and warehousemen.

Building sites and loading bays for motor vehicles were, perhaps unsurprisingly, the worst black spots.

One conclusion was that it could well make sense to make transport drivers wear helmets when loading or unloading.

Statistics further revealed that construction, metal- and woodworkers were an above-average accident risk when it came to eye injuries.

There were nearly 42,100 eye injuries in 1977, not to mention 60,000 foot and toe injuries that usually occurred in transport work.

The figures unfortunately give no indication of how many injuries were due to victims not wearing protective gear. Is there a case here for arguing that since report forms are inevitable they might at least ask the right questions?

Maybe, but it is possibly overtaxing works safety officials who are responsible for filling in claim forms to expect them to conduct what would virtually amount to criminal investigations.

Too often, however, blame cannot be apportioned, and Dr Abt recalls a number of measures that could be undertaken in view of recent case law.

An employer who fails to provide protective gear is asking for trouble with both insurance schemes and the law, while an employee who fails to wear mandatory protective clothing may forfeit sick pay or accident benefit and could even face dismissal.

But positive motivation is probably preferable to threats of punishment. Surely it is better to try and eliminate aversions to safety precautions that clearly make sense.

There is widespread anxiety about making a fool of oneself by wearing a helmet, let alone a hairnet. Besides, it could not only look dreadful but also be inconvenient.

One ploy used by a safety engineer in a large factory to persuade staff to wear helmets gained well-earned acclaim. Initially he issued helmets to managerial staff and foremen only.

The word was spread that helmets were only for key members of staff. There was uproar as a result, with everyone clamouring for helmets. They all got them — and wore them too!

But subterfuges of this kind don't always work. A Salzgitter safety engineer told the Düsseldorf congress there could be no doubt that the best, finest and most lightweight protective clothing was a nuisance to wear.

So it must make you neither sweat nor freeze, be easy to keep clean, hygienic and look reasonably attra... manufacturers concluded.

Nowadays many people would n... seen dead in the shapeless old overalls workers used to wear, alth... the popularity of jeans has proved... lutely invaluable in the protective... ing context.

But better designed working cl... are definitely in demand, and there... been a clear improvement in both... ing and footwear.

Workmen's boots have to co... with a number of requirements wh... comes to waterproofing, resistan... pressure and the like.

But the latest models would grace... shoe shop window, even for yo... They resemble the thick-soled... currently worn by hikers.

"We have tried to apply our... styling to this section of the m... says Knut Baak, who works for a la... shoe manufacturer in Mülheim... Ruhr.

He added that competition both... home and abroad was tough, profit ma... gins low and the average price an eye... brow-raising DM50 — a snip nowadays.

Protective clothing has also taken... a fashionable air wherever possible... blue no longer predominating. B... colours and easy-care mixed-garm... ments are available in a wide range... sizes.

National and international comp... tion, especially from the US, Britain... Denmark, help to ensure the demise... the uniform styling of the past.

Competition here too keeps p... down. A five-per-cent price increase... called for, manufacturers said in Dü... dorf, but they were far from s... would prove feasible.

In many companies protective clo... ing fosters the corporate image and... tures the company's colours and... Different-coloured helmets for man... ment, visitors and newcomers to... staff are reportedly the latest rage.

Yet there is little or no demand... hierarchical symbols of the more... creet kind, such as extra pockets or... blazoning. But oddly enough a w... coat still counts as a status symbol... many companies.

Most manufacturers sound enco... gingly confident. The Industrial Sa... Act of 1974 is generally acknowle... to have given the trade a tremendous... lip.

Two-figures increases in turnover... since been nothing unusual. Sales of... fety shoes have been increasing at... 30 per cent a year.

New markets have opened up for... cial services in safety or hygiene, su... a Hanover company that leases... clothing, including cleaning and... ing.

Sales manager Hans-Jürgen K... says the company already supp... 230,000 men and women in various... des. Sixty per cent wear overalls, 40... cent warehouse coats.

Difficulties naturally also arise,... as ongoing legislation about whether... tective footwear subsidised by the... ployer may be worn other than at wo...

There are reports too of more... more ear plugs being worn in open... offices. Plug manufacturers have natu... ly pricked up their ears.

So should we all. These reports p... to clerical units as a sector hitherto... lected by safety engineers and manufa... turers.

Reinhard Biehl

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 8 December 19...)

■ AVIATION

Flight without wings began 500 years ago

Hannoversche Allgemeine

The helicopter took about 500 years to develop from an idea jotted down by Leonardo da Vinci in 1483 to an everyday item.

Austrian watchmaker Jakob Degen first used the helicopter in its simplest form when he flew a clockwork spring device to a height of 120m on the Prater meadows in Vienna.

But it took the invention of the combustion engine to get helicopters truly airborne, albeit first only for seconds at a time.

Most trials amounted to no more than a few hops and jumps until, on 3 November 1907, Frenchman Paul Cornu's two-man 'copter stayed aloft for a full minute at a height of two metres.

But his chopper didn't steer, and forward motion was out of the question. Even 15 years later, in 1922, George de Bothezat, a Russian, designed a helicopter in the United States that soared to a mere 10m.

By the time working helicopters appeared in the 30s hovering, forward motion and manoeuvring were no longer as sensational as when counter-torque had sent their predecessors spinning.

This counter-rotation was offset either by a smaller tailblade or by a second rotor blade rotating in the other direction.

Germany's pride and joy was the outstanding work of Dr Heinrich Focke. In 1938 air ace Hanna Reitsch flew his twin-rotor craft inside the Deutschlandhalle, an indoor auditorium, in Berlin.

The Germans built long runs of helicopters, first the Focke F-61 which, starting in 1936, made records as follows: duration 1 hr 30 min., distance 143 miles (230km), altitude 11,243ft (3,427m) and speed 75mph (123km/h).

The Focke helicopter's 1937 flight duration record of 90 min. was exceeded by 12 min. in 1941 by Igor Sikorsky's VS-300.

Back in Germany the world's first transport helicopter, the Focke FA-223, went into series production. By the end of the war 20 were completed.

In America Sikorsky's prototypes were quickly standardised and mass-produced. About 400 were run off the assembly lines.

But the helicopter did not really come into its own until after the Korean War, while it was first really mass-produced in connection with the war in Vietnam.

Helicopter development in civil aviation lagged behind, but leading manufacturers are keen to see the chopper put to mass transport use.

It has long proved its worth as an untiring, indispensable workhorse and is everywhere to be found where conventional aircraft are of little or no use.

It rescues accident victims from remote mountains and the sea. It rushes road victims to hospital. It helps to assemble skyscraper sections. It sprays crops, relays goods and, occasionally, carries passengers.

The main reason why the helicopter has yet to come into its own in passenger transport is that it is fairly slow, reaching a top speed of only 125mph (200km/h) or so.



A CH-53G helicopter delivers a military vehicle
(Photo: Lothar Kucharz)

Its range is limited. It is difficult to handle. It is costly to maintain. Its complicated, accident-prone rotor system wears out fast.

Present-day Germany's multi-role BO/105, manufactured by Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm, sets new standards. It was the first helicopter ever to feature a rigid rotor.

Unlike the usual flapping and swing hinges, the BO-105's fibre-glass rotor blades are fixed straight to the titanium hub.

This makes the craft extremely manoeuvrable and responsive to steering. There is no lag, so the BO-105 flies as smoothly as a conventional aircraft in this respect.

It certainly amazes spectators regularly at air shows with its astonishing displays of special maoeuvres.

The BO-105 is the first German helicopter ever built in a long run. MBB have sold nearly 1,000, both civil and military, to 22 countries.

About 15,000 'copters are currently in use worldwide. The aviation industry estimates that an additional 25,000 to 30,000 civil and military versions will be needed over the next 10 years.

Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm think they have a chance of cornering a good share of this new generation market with their BK-117.

Jointly developed by Germany and Japan, options for a full year's output of 30 to 50 units had been placed before its maiden flight on 13 June 1979.

Convertible aircraft and convertiplane helicopters, once highly rated, no longer seem to stand much of a chance.

Lockheed at one stage planned a plane that was to take off and land as a helicopter but to retract its rotating airfoils into the fuselage and fly as a fixed-wing aircraft at cruising speed.

Heavyweight balloon helicopters, a combination of airship and 'copter, are under consideration in the Soviet Union, but they too are likely to remain rare birds.

Gerhard Taube

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 1 December 1979)

Better aerodynamics key to cutting fuel consumption

Lufthansa alone could cut fuel consumption by 500,000 tonnes a year and running costs by 30 per cent if it used aerodynamics to the full.

On West German roads two million tonnes of motor fuel a year could be saved, while the railways, too, could make do with substantially less energy.

Combustion engines and turbines could generate more power, heating burners work more economically. And it's all done by aerodynamics, West German scientists claim.

Aerodynamics enabled man to fly. Today's commercial aircraft may not appear to have much in common with Otto Lilienthal's gliders or the Wright brothers' flyer.

But they are based on the same principle. The difference is merely that engineers have learnt how to put the principle to better use.

Speed and load capacity have been increased substantially in relation to energy consumed, and mostly because more is known about the laws of physics that govern flight.

Even so, the recently published Memorandum on Future National Co-operation in Aerodynamics Research clearly indicates that unused reserves are still plentiful.

Special research programmes could use this potential, enabling more energy savings.

A streamlined surface was long thought to be enough to keep atmospheric resistance to a minimum. Tear-shaped fuselages or vehicles were considered better at normal speeds, while certain wing shapes ensured most uplift.

Turbulence was felt to be an artificial mistake, although in aviation it made serious inroads into performance and could even lead to a crash.

Yet it is wrong to infer that streamlined looks alone are enough to make best use of air currents.

In aviation especially, but also in motoring, situations occur that cry out for irregularities. Air eddies have long been known to reduce uplift when the need arose.

Airliners put out flaps or spoilers on landing to ground them fast; racing cars use spoilers for roadholding, otherwise they too might tend to take off and lose their grip.

In the engine air swirl mixes air and fuel, leading to improved combustion, better performance and fewer toxins in the exhaust fumes. Aircraft designers' aerodynamic know-how could be a boon to car designers, since even at 50km/h (30mph) air resistance accounts for 50 per cent of overall tractional resistance. When speed is increased to more than 100km/h (60mph) air resistance goes up to 80 or 90 per cent. Were aerodynamic design to reduce this reistance by a third, 12 to 15 per cent fuel savings could be achieved. With 22 million vehicles on West German roads this percentage totals two million tonnes.



Model in aerodynamic tests
(Photo: MBB)

Such striking savings cannot be made in civil aviation, where opportunities have been used more or less to the full as speeds have increased.

But improvements, especially to wing design, are still a distinct possibility. If uplift were to be improved by aerodynamic design, wings could be made smaller.

The resulting savings would snowball: lower weight, lower construction costs, less resistance. The plane could be run more economically.

This is why the A 300 B European Airbus had made a breakthrough into the preserves of the US aero industry.

Its smaller version, the A 310, will feature a so-called supercritical wing that is expected to improve running costs still further.

Engineers and aerodynamics specialists have been working on this supercritical wing for years, the aim being to ensure that air currents fly round the wing without swirling.

Resistance must be lowered, both in aircraft and turbine design. In the turbine's case research scientists are trying to prevent performance decline and noise.

Klaus Müller

(Die Welt, 24 November 1979)

THE ARTS

Kirchner exhibition marks return of the expressionists

The German expressionists are making a comeback.

The New National Gallery in Berlin is now holding the biggest ever retrospective of Kirchner's work to mark the 100th anniversary of his birth on 6 May, 1980.

The exhibition, which took three years to prepare, lasts until 20 January and will then go on to Munich, Cologne and Zurich. It contains the best of the best: 400 works in all.

There is unlikely to be a Kirchner retrospective of this size and quality ever again, according to Dieter Honisch, director of the National Gallery.

Those who loaned the works – 85 museums and private collectors throughout the world – stressed that this was a one-off loan.

Yet the 100th anniversary is not the main aspect. This exhibition is more of a test case for Kirchner, to see if he can



Ernst Ludwig Kirchner: Self-Portrait

make the leap from being a purely German phenomenon to being recognised as a major European and even international artist.

Kirchner, the driving force behind the Dresden "Brücke" group of artists, aspired to this European and international importance. Director Honisch asks in the catalogue whether Kirchner's work justified these aspirations. Another aim of the exhibition was, in Honisch's words, to present Kirchner again as an "optical sensation." There has been no major view of his work since the Düsseldorf exhibition of 1960.

The second question is about Kirchner's relevance. What have Kirchner and the expressionists to say to us today? Honisch argues that his anniversary exhibition coincides with "a broader and stronger sense of the relevance of painting in general."

Then there is another form of topicality to which we respond more sceptically. What made the Brücke expressionists seem so German, what cut them off from the broad artistic mainstream, was their sense of mission.

"Art as a Design for Life" is the title of an essay in the catalogue by Erika Billeter of the Zurich Kunsthaus.

The Brücke group lived art, art was life. They developed their own private mythology, a term which is very apt for Kirchner and which underlines the affinities with Joseph Beuys. Is Beuys still an expressionist, an expressionist using different means?

The Brücke manifesto of 1906 believed in "development, in a new generation of artists, a new kind of public." It aimed to escape from the narrowness of middle-class life, to gain "elbow room and room to live."

"Everyone who directly and without distortion expresses the creative urge within him is one of us."

Back to nature, back to the origins, as the group discovered them in primitive (in the Dresden Museum of Ethnology). Free love, free nature, nudist games at the Moritzburg lakes and later, in the Berlin period, on Fehmarn in the Baltic.

Paintings of nudes abound in this period, but they have nothing in common with for example Cezanne's Les Baigneuses, where the bathers merge harmoniously into nature. This harmony is only achieved later.

Nudes, the human body, the human figure are the central themes. Nudes moving, not posing, changing rapidly changing situations.

Karl Scheffler wrote that "Ernst Ludwig Kirchner painted as if he had descended to the mothers and come back unscathed, now capable of invoking a negro Helen ..."

The pace at which this generation worked was also rapid, frantic. They were eager for quick fame. Scheffler speculates that perhaps they sensed the oncoming war and its consequences.

And everything important happened before 1914 and the outbreak of war. A year before, the Brücke broke up as a community of friends and artists. The group split up into loners, individualists.

One of the main reasons was Kirchner's belief that he was a genius. He claimed all the Brücke's innovations as his own, denounced group-members Heckel, Schmidt-Rottluff, Pechstein as plagiarists.

Kirchner wanted to be alone. And so the National Gallery exhibition concentrates on him as a singular phenomenon. What remains of this change, this new direction, is the paintings. The optical sensation of this exhibition are the colliding, contradictory motifs of nature and city, primal nature and denaturalised nature, alienation becoming almost demonic. These paintings are so impressive that they put Kirchner above the other members of the group. The Fehmarn idylls are marginal. The dominant images of the exhibition are not those of the paradise of the naked men and women unselfonsciously together in their nakedness but the hectic, oppressive Berlin city milieu, the street scenes depicting cocottes stalking the streets in feathered hats with faces like birds of prey, male prostitutes prancing around with their pointed hats and high-heels.



Street Scene with Red-Headed Cocotte

(Photos: Catalogue)

These figures are reminiscent of von Chamisso's Peter Schlehmihl, the man without a shadow, the man who has lost his true self and wonders wanders around suffering from a persecution complex.

This man without a shadow aspect is already apparent in famous Potsdamer Platz. (1914). A year later, as a soldier, Kirchner uses himself as a model for a series of woodcut illustrations to Chamisso's novel.

The first World and the communists had a terrible effect on the hypersensitive Kirchner. He broke down physically and mentally, ended up a in sanatorium, became addicted to veronal, alcohol morphine.

Fascinating "Zeitbilder" bear testimony to this: the self-portrait showing the painter's hand wounded, powerless, Soldatenbad depicting the individualist as just one in a crowd, reduced to cannon fodder.



Figures Striding Into the Sea

Kirchner moved to Davos, where tried to recover. As an inwardly brok man he now began his second phase with a strong melancholic strain.

In 1937, the Nazis removed Kirchner's paintings – all 637 of them from the museums and denounced as a "degenerate artist." This was a k ible shock to Kirchner, who thought shared their ideology. A year later committed suicide by shooting hims in the heart.

The painting "Potsdamer Platz (19 is the most precious in the exhibit and is generally considered Kirchne and expressionism's major city paint – a direct forerunner of the realist twenties with Otto Dix.

Scheffler said Kirchner was "almost prince." Max Beckmann said: "Kirch ner's problem was that he could resist French influence.".

He was under the spell of Picasso reached his artistic nadir when, in 19 he tried to imitate Picasso directly. realised this and dropped the exp ment.

According to Frank Whitford in exhibition catalogue, Kirchner became the victim of the modern gelian style of art criticism in only absolute innovators count. therefore pre-dated some of his own and denied the influence of other even though the influence of Munch for instance is patent.

Kirchner wanted, in his own wo be the "leader of the new direction Kirchner was not a major innovat achievement – and it is a subst one – lies in his unique images city and his emotionally charged ings of mountain landscapes.

Whitford writes: "Now, more years after his death, we are still about him in the same terms as ed about himself."

"This is perhaps the best answer question in the catalogue whether Kirchner was the leader he claimed be!

Karl Diemer

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 30 Novemb



THE ARTS

200 years of paintings show that English talent 'not limited to boxing'

An exhibition of English painting at the Munich Haus der Künste is impressive: because of this, its shortcomings are all the more glaring.

"Two hundred Years of English Painting" (from 1680 to 1880) has 400 works by 126 artists drawn from collections all over the world, from New York to Melbourne.

Paintings from the Royal Collection are included.

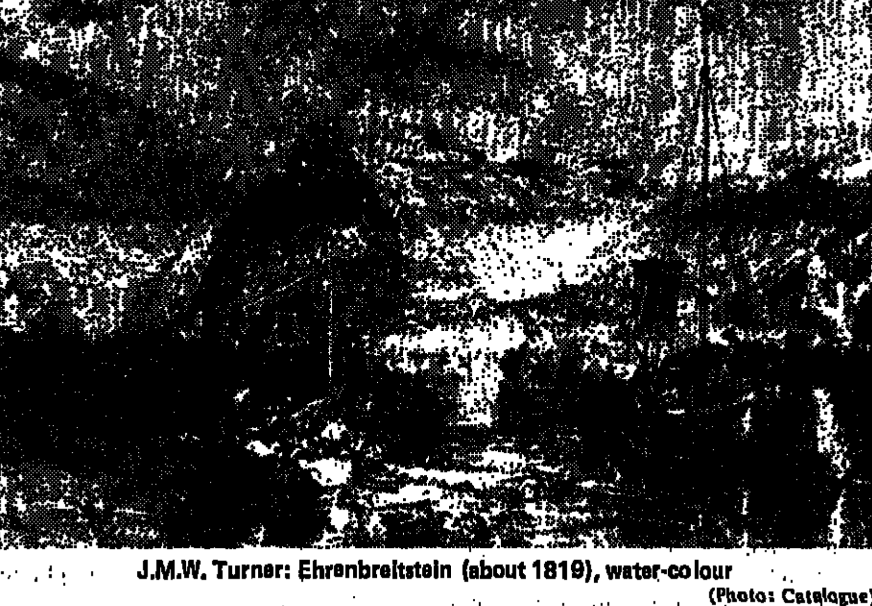
The main fault is the catalogue. It does not provide the non-specialist visitor with the precise information he needs.

Director of the Haus der Künste Peter A. Ade organised the exhibition in conjunction with the British Council.

Great Britain and the Continent – in the arts, too, there were tensions and differences for centuries. The fear of foreign influence and the British inferiority complex on the one hand, the contempt of the Europeans on the other, who considered the British unartistic and lacking in imagination.

William Blake, painter of the "flaming line", could even write in 1810: "We may be talented as boxers, but as artists we have long been the laughing stock of the continent."

This magnificent exhibition shows that the British put too low an estimate on their artistic achievement.



J.M.W. Turner: Ehrenbreitstein (about 1819), water-colour

(Photo: Catalogue)

The exhibition organisers also wanted to counter the one-sidedness of the notion of the Englishness of English art, the theory so brilliantly put forward in Nikolaus Pevsner's book.

The focal point of the exhibition is not the insular conception of art of Hogarth, Constable and Stubbs but the interconnections between England and the Continent.

Impressive oil paintings, drawings, water-colours and prints show Britons in, not against, Europe.

The eight sections of the exhibition give a fine view of the British contribution to European art between 1700 and 1900: the portrait painting of the 17th century, the idea and the practice of the English garden, landscape painting in the 19th century culminating in the richly atmospheric pre-impressionism of William Turner, finally the pre-Raphaelites led by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, the art reform of Morris and Ruskin and the Modern Style.

On the other hand, this unique survey of two centuries of British art, the first of its kind in the German-speaking world, traces Britain's slow emancipation from the domination of foreign art: after 1750 a British school led by the patriotic William Hogarth emerges at the same time as Britain renewed interest in Europe, with Rome and Naples as the main stopping places, indeed places of pilgrimage on the traditional "grand Tour."

After the Napoleonic campaigns, English landscape artists travelled extensively in Europe and Goethe even refers to the British passion for travel in Faust.

The overall impression of the exhibition remains ambivalent.

Of course we know that English art did not develop in isolation after the Puritan period but it was certainly more English than the organisers of this exhibition would have us believe.

As Henry James ironically observed 100 years ago: "I frankly admit that I am more interested in the Englishness of English painting than in the painting.

"The painting gives me, on the whole, little help in understanding Titian and Rembrandt; but it constantly gives new, inexhaustible and happy insights into the English character."

Wolfgang Jean Stock

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 5 December 1979)

Berlin museum for Bauhaus Archive runs into light problems

Berlin now has yet another museum, the Bauhaus Archive in Klingelhöferstrasse, near the Tiergarten.

The museum, built in four years at a cost of DM12m, is a late work of Berlin-born architect Walter Gropius.

Gropius founded the Bauhaus, probably the most important art school of this century, in 1919. The aim of the school was to make the artist aware of his social responsibility to the community and make the community more aware of its responsibility towards the artist.

The Bauhaus was originally based in Weimar and later moved to Dessau, then Berlin, where it was closed by the Nazis in 1933. Its teachers and students were persecuted by the Nazis.

The Bauhaus Archive was founded by its director Hans M. Wingler in Darmstadt in 1960. This site was too small, and so Gropius designed a new building. However, negotiations on how the project was to be financed were protracted.

After Gropius' death in 1969, the Berlin Senate proposed that the archive should move to Berlin. It offered a site and considerable financial aid. The offer was accepted and the archive moved into a provisional building in Schlossstrasse, in Charlottenburg.

Architecturally, the building is original. We will know this winter whether it is also practical. The entrance to the archive is at the back, through a kind of courtyard.

You enter the building by a ramp which first rises gently then falls and forms a hairpin bend. The narrow concrete path leads to the entrance and through glass windows the visitor gets his first impressions of the interior of the building.

Snow and ice will probably soon make the unheated open ramp impossible, so that visitors will have to use the back entrance.

The so-called sheds resembling the teeth of a saw are the most striking architectural feature of the building. The purpose of this design was to ensure that soft, carefully measured light entered the rooms so that sensitive designs were not damaged and that all objects were clearly visible.

This aim was not achieved. The building was originally planned for the Rosenhöhe in Darmstadt. In Berlin, its position had to be changed 180 degrees. As a result the light enters from the south and not from the north. This light is too strong. So the glass of the sheds was painted white and venetian blinds were used for other glass walls.

And this means that the fine view of the Landwehr canal and thus the living interaction between nature and art, is largely lost.

In the interior, there is little trace of the famous clean line of the Bauhaus style. The two-storey north wing, in particular, which houses the library, archive, cafeteria, lecture rooms, work rooms and administrative offices, is labyrinthine.

Bauhaus Archive in Berlin, originally to be built in Darmstadt

(Photo: Reinhard Friedrich)

The exhibition area in the Gropius building is 874 sq.metres, only 30 sq.metres more than in the Schlosstrasse. However, the new building has more wall space.

The Bauhaus Archive will not only present exhibitions of the past but also creative new developments of the style such as the New Bauhaus and the School of Design in Chicago.

Posters and works at entrance

At the opening of the museum, typography and advertising posters were exhibited to the left of the entrance. On the right, the works of teachers and students were on display. *Der Springer*, by Paul Klee, a private loan, is particularly striking.

Also on display are works by Georg Muche, Laszlo Maholy-Nogy, Josef Albers and Lyonel Feininger.

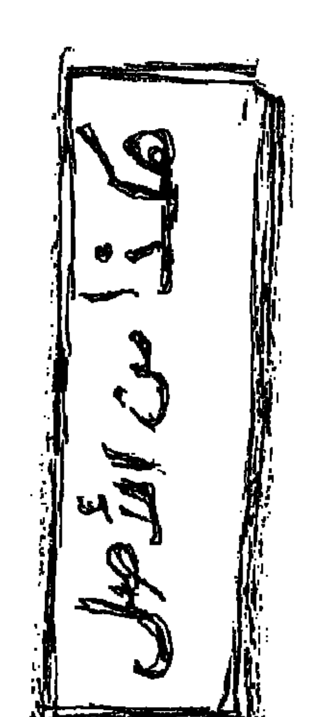
The Guggenheim Museum in New York, lent Kandinsky's *Im Schwarzen Quadrat* for the opening of the exhibition.

Silver and metal works are displayed in glass cases. Also on show are sculptures, photos, ceramics, weaving and furniture, including a number of different chairs.

Five life-size figurines by Oskar Schlemmer are real eye-catchers. These colourful, bizarre, geometrical shapes were designed for the Triadic Ballet.

Hans Dornbach

(Nordwest Zeitung, 4 December 1979)



■ **MEDICINE**

Advances in research reveal new horizons for schizophrenics

Until not too long ago, schizophrenia sufferers stood little chance of a cure.

This was largely because patients usually did not have regular checkups over decades – especially if no medical treatment was called for.

But research by Bonn University has changed the situation drastically, as indicated in a study by Professor Gerd Huber, recently published in the magazine, *Fortschritte der Neurologie und Psychiatrie.*

The project was based on the case histories of 758 schizophrenics admitted to the Bonn University Neurological Clinic between 1945 and 1959.

Of them, 147 have died, one-quarter through suicide; 502 have undergone follow-up checkups, mostly in family surroundings.

Close to one-third of these are now, several decades after the disorder started, either completely or almost completely cured.

Eighty seven per cent live at home, and only 13 per cent are long-term patients in psychiatric clinics; 56 per cent have full-time jobs, and of these two-thirds work at the same occupational level as they did before the illness.

Long-term studies show the great effect of the private sphere and personality on the course the illness takes.

War, the loss of next-of-kin, occupational and family conflicts and similar disasters can trigger a psychosis. But this alone does not explain why one person falls ill while another does not.

The Bonn study shows that people who are unable to establish contact with other people are more at risk than those who have no trouble communicating. Failure as early as in primary school and a low talent level are also unfavourable factors.

Old view was not broadly based

The old view that schizophrenia must lead to specific psychological changes stemmed, like all textbook views on the disorder, from experience with a minority of hospitalised patients.

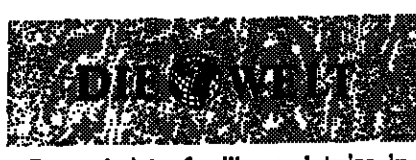
New research shows that reduced performance due to schizophrenia is not tantamount to reduced responsibility, inability to develop guilt feelings and diminished occupational prowess.

Total change does not happen. Personalities remain essentially intact. In fact, patients are much freer and have more critical judgment than would seem possible from former textbook views.

The fact that sufferers can learn and develop adjusted attitudes is an important aspect of any therapy – an aspect which has hitherto been neglected.

For the patients admitted to the Bonn hospital between 1951 and 1959, prospects for a cure through treatment with drugs improved considerably compared the prospects of those who fell ill before 1951, i.e. before the appropriate drugs became available.

Drugs have created the basis for modern sociotherapy. They are statistically shown to be the most effective therapy for schizophrenia.



Research into families and twins indicates that a predisposition to schizophrenic psychoses is hereditary.

Identical, one-egg, twins fall ill four times as often as their two-egg counterparts.

Family research confirms that the risk rises with the degree of blood relation.

In distant relatives it is only slightly higher than for unrelated people, rising with closeness of relation and reaching its peak in children of two schizophrenic parents.

These risk figures cannot be explained with social factors as being the result of increasingly similar environments, because even children who were adopted by unrelated families immediately after birth are as frequently affected by schizophrenia as those who have remained in their biological families.

Vice versa, children of healthy Parents adopted by schizophrenics were not found to be prone to the disorder. Identical twins who grow up separately are as endangered as those who have grown up together.

About 50 per cent of children with two schizophrenic parents develop the disorder. The fact that almost half remain healthy despite a pronounced schizophrenic family milieu also speaks against the environment theory.

Nothing certain is as yet known about the hereditary aspects. Additional environment factors can either promote or retard the disorder.

Perhaps even people with a certain proneness can escape the disorder, given favourable environmental conditions. The disease is only triggered under heavy stress.

It appears that a likelihood of getting the disease is passed on through biochemical deviations of the central nervous functions. Today's research points to the neuron system in the brain as the most likely centre of the disturbance.

Professor Huber considers the most important result of his study the fact that the term "mental illness" can no longer be applied to schizophrenia, which is a physical ailment.

Until recently, it was thought that schizophrenia was cause by a variety of environmental factors: life in a poorer class; hostile family environment; divorces or separations; social isolation; remaining unmarried.

The Bonn study has now ruled these out.

All these factors are the effects rather than the cause.

The researchers found that peo[ple] from the lower social groupings were a majority at the time of after care.

But the parents of the patients were not mostly from those groupings. Neither were most patients before the disorder began.

In other words, the disease was cause of downward social movement.

According to the findings of psychiatry involving different cultures, schizophrenic psychoses occur among all peoples, races and cultures with equal frequency.

Despite differences in the symptoms and substance of hallucinations, differences caused by environment, culture, religion, etc., the course of the illness is similar everywhere. Sufferers throughout the world resemble each other more than their healthy counterparts.

Studies do not confirm that schizophrenia is a civilisation disorder due to stress which does not occur in primitive societies and in developing countries.

Sociological theories concerning the causes of schizophrenia are at present particularly popular in socalled anti-psychiatry circles.

They maintain that it is the performance-oriented capitalistic society that makes peoples mentally ill, a society which must therefore be changed.

But, writes Professor Huber, we need no ideology. What we do need is empirical research.

He terms demands unrealistic which call on psychiatry to prevent future psychoses by changing society. Such demands are based on theories unsupported by scientific research.

Marie-Gabrielle zu Hohenlohe

(Die Welt, 30 November 1979)

Prize winners pull cloak from 'naked mini viruses'

Virus research has won Professors Albrecht Kleinschmidt and Heinz Sänger the Robert Koch Prize for medicine.

Their main work has been research into a new class of microbes known as viroides.

They have also developed new ways of seeing by electron microscope two genetic material handlers: deoxyribonucleic acid(DNA) and ribonucleic acid(RNA).

Viroides has been the subject of much research in the past 10 years.

So far, only plant diseases are known to be caused by viroides. It has not yet been possible to link these mini viruses with diseases in man and animals, though this is likely eventually.

Researchers have so far found that all types of microbes or fungi (including protozoas, bacilli, bacterias and viruses) can cause disease in plants, animals and people though the same ones do not necessarily affect all forms of life.

Viroides, which have only been known for a few years, are also called "naked mini viruses" because they consist only of coverless RNAs.

They are so small that the genetic information stored in them is not enough for reproduction.

As a result, they can only stimulate reproduction in their host cell which is then carried out with the help of enzymes, proteins and nucleic acid. In the process, the host cells gradually lose their enzymes and their genetic material, which spells ruin for them.

Viroides consist of relatively few base pairs; in other words, very short nucleic acid particles with about 350 to 360 nucleic acid modules, the so-called nucleotides, Professor Sänger said in his address at the award ceremony.

Viroides were found in the course of searching for the cause of long-known plant diseases that had hitherto been attributed to viruses.

Meanwhile, seven viroide diseases in plants have been identified, among them commercially very important ones affecting potatoes, citrus, cucumbers, coconut palms and hops.

But viroides occur in very small concentrations in the affected plants. One kilo of leaves thus frequently produces no more than one millionth of a gram of viroides.

Professors Sänger, from Giessen, and Kleinschmidt (of Ulm) have only in the past few years managed to shed light on the structure of various viroides. They proved to be single-strand ring-like nucleic acid molecules occuring in double-strand structures.

Professor Sänger explained a number of hitherto unknown characteristics, saying that viroides were only about five times the size of the smallest functional RNA in the normal cell, the So-called transfer RNA.

Notwithstanding the knowledge gained on the viroide structure, little is known about their procreation mechanisms.

Viroide procreation probably takes place with the help of the cell's enzymes. Intensive research to clarify this question is now in progress.

It is also unknown whether and how an organism can defend itself against viroides. Since these particles have no protein covering, they even fail to alert the known immunological mechanisms of the cell system. Without protein covering they have no antigen effect.

It is possible that some rare brain diseases are caused by viroide infection. Today's researchers speak of "slow virus diseases" because they destroy nerve cells over a long period of time.

But all that has been found so far is a few naked virus particles. It still remains open whether there is any actual link with viroides.

Research into viroides became possible through new techniques developed by Professor Kleinschmidt in the use of electron microscopes.

The new method centres around nucleic acid strands which normally are completely snarled. The unsnarling is done by a substance called zytochrome C.

Once the nucleic acid molecules have been unsnarled they can be prepared for examination under an electron microscope. This makes it possible to establish the size and shape of the nucleic acid strands.

The size of these strands extends from that of the small molecules of viroides (360 nucleotides) all the way to the nucleic acid of a human chromosome, some containing about 57 million nucleotides.

In the course of the past few years it has thus been possible to examine individual genes and their parts.

The electron microscope also makes it possible to engage in genetic manipulation in the course of which alien nucleic acid is introduced into a bacterial nucleic acid. In some cases, the bacteria with the new nucleic acid propagate with new genetic properties.

Werner Pfeiffer

(Der Tagesspiegel, 1 December 1979)

■ **EDUCATION**

Graduate hopes 'hit by employment realities'

Predictions of demand for graduates in industry are unreliable, according to a study by the German Economic Institute (IW). They are based on doubtful assumptions about the employment situation and general economic and technological development.

Many such predictions are also dictated by self-interest with a view to maintaining the status quo for the privileged few.

The Cologne based-Institute says that predictions about industry's graduate needs are not an adequate basis for a decision about a graduate's future, though they do refine the diagnosis and therapy of the labour market and in this respect are of some importance in educational policy.

Another criticism is that predictions of future requirements are based solely on developments in the past. And here highly-qualified educational background is regarded as synonymous with a university degree.

The Institute says in future more attention should be paid to education and further education at all levels, in vocational education, the secondary modern and grammar schools, comprehensive and special schools and in evening institutes and technical colleges.

Universities, according to the study, had to date enjoyed a monopoly. As a result, graduates had naively exaggerated expectations, believing that they had a right to well-paid and prestigious posts. These expectations, the study stresses, simply do not conform to industrial reality today.

Thinking in terms of social status and the widespread belief that learning stopped once a degree was gained were further obstacles to gaining good posts in industry, according to the study.

In the authors' view, unemployment among graduates, which was still less than the general level of unemployment among the working population as a whole, should not be treated as more important than unemployment in other sectors.

The Cologne economists recommend that employers should change their system of rewards and payments as a means towards bringing the educational system more into line with the realities of the employment situation.

The results of the theoretical analysis of labour market predictions were confirmed by a non-representative poll among 18 companies from all branches of industry employing 1.4 million workers (5.4 % of the working population).

These companies, which had a higher than average number of graduates on their payrolls, were asked what criteria they used in appointing graduates and what problems they met.

They said the main problem lay in the quality rather than the quantity of graduates and their high expectations.

Changing patterns of employment

Percentage change in numbers between 1970 and 1978

Net losses		Gains	
Chemical workers	-12	Doctors	+22
Architects	-13	Lawyers and solicitors	+35
Bricklayers	-14	Nurses	+48
Clerical staff	-15	Nursery teachers	+60
Painters	-23	Managers	+66
Farmers	-25	Computer staff	+67
Accounts clerks	-25	GP's secretaries	+72
Family emplyees	-39	Economists	+77
Tailors	-47	Teachers	+81
Unskilled construction workers	-48	Social workers	+87

G 3331

In the opinion of personnel officers, young graduates still have traditional – and therefore exaggeratedly high – career expectations. According to the poll, many graduates are not mentally mobile enough, not prepared to move to other areas if their jobs required it.

Most companies said that personal qualities were more important factors than the class of a candidate's degree.

Only one of the 18 companies said that a good degree was a major criterion in selection and only two companies attached importance to their appointees' having better than average degrees.

The main criteria according to the IW study were:

- practical experience
- qualities such as skill in negotiation, logical and practical thinking
- qualities of character such as cooperativeness, ability to integrate and to learn and, above all, flexibility and mobility.

Personnel officers reckon that the expectations of graduates are even higher. Candidates for posts seemed to be more self-confident, more critical.

Companies, for their part, were trying to counter lack of mobility by a wide-ranging programme of introductory and in-service courses.

According to the poll, graduates have not, as a rule, been appointed to posts previously held by non-graduates, nor is this likely to happen in the near future. The poll seems to indicate this, as professional academics are meeting with a good response from industry. The Institute concludes that this indicates a gap in traditional courses.

(Handelsblatt, 4 December 1979)

Competition is tough for medical school

Applicants hoping to get on to university degree courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science via a new test scheme are bound, for the most part, to be disappointed. Only 18 per cent of all admissions will be via this scheme – less than a fifth of all admissions.

The rest will have to take the traditional, fiercely competitive route to get on to these courses. This means in effect that they need the highest marks in their school leaving certificate to train as doctors, vets or dentists.

The new scheme is not a test in the traditional sense and there is no truth whatever in the rumour that more university places were being made available for those taking part in it.

The Central Council on University Admissions (ZVS) will allocate about the same number of students to the same number of university places, according to a decision by the *Land* ministers of education.

The importance of the test scheme is generally over-rated and so it is hardly surprising that very keen students have already started special intensive preparations to get a head start on other applicants.

This may will prove a wasted effort. There are 45,000 more applicants for places in these subjects than there are places, and only 6,000 are admitted to the test scheme. Assuming that all applicants will want to take the test, this means lots will have to be drawn and statistically each applicant will then only have 1:7.5 chances of even sitting the test.

According to ZVS rules, would-be students may apply to a maximum of six universities. For first-time applicants, the limit is three.

Obviously, those who get into the 6,000 still have not reached their goal. Each applicant has only a one in five chance of getting on to the course of his choice – there are only 1,200 places for the 6,000.

Even worse: marks gained in the test will not necessarily guarantee admission. Only ten per cent of places will be given to the best ten per cent of applicants. The remaining ninety per cent of places will be awarded taking marks in the Abitur university entrance examination into account. Average Abitur marks will count for 55, the test only for five per cent here. So that better pupils have a head start here, too. Those with lower Abitur marks will have to do better in the test to have at least the same chance.

Those with brilliant marks in their Abitur do not even have to take the test. They are the only ones who can be sure of a place according to the new selection procedure. One in ten places is reserved for them.

At the end of the selection process, these 10 per cent of places are allocated to those with the best marks.

First of all those with averages of 1.0 (in descending order of merit on a scale of 1 to 6) take part in the quota system. The result is that these super-pupils displace students who have no chance of benefitting from the ten per cent clause.

This means that at the end of the day, even pupils with averages of 1.3 get places reserved for "super pupils."

A.W. Breinersdorfer

(Die Welt, 5 December 1979)

■ MEDICINE

Advances in research reveal new horizons for schizophrenics

Until not too long ago, schizophrenia sufferers stood little chance of a cure.

This was largely because patients usually did not have regular checkups over decades — especially if no medical treatment was called for.

But research by Bonn University has changed the situation drastically, as indicated in a study by Professor Gerd Huber, recently published in the magazine, *Fortschritte der Neurologie und Psychiatrie*.

The project was based on the case histories of 758 schizophrenics admitted to the Bonn University Neurological Clinic between 1945 and 1959.

Of them, 147 have died, one-quarter through suicide; 502 have undergone follow-up checkups, mostly in family surroundings.

Close to one-third of these are now, several decades after the disorder started, either completely or almost completely cured.

Eighty seven per cent live at home, and only 13 per cent are long-term patients in psychiatric clinics; 56 per cent have full-time jobs, and of these two-thirds work at the same occupational level as they did before the illness.

Long-term studies show the great effect of the private sphere and personality on the course the illness takes.

War, the loss of next-of-kin, occupational and family conflicts and similar disasters can trigger a psychosis. But this alone does not explain why one person falls ill while another does not.

The Bonn study shows that people who are unable to establish contact with other people are more at risk than those who have no trouble communicating. Failure as early as in primary school and a low talent level are also unfavourable factors.

Old view was not broadly based

The old view that schizophrenia must lead to specific psychological changes stemmed, like all textbook views on the disorder, from experience with a minority of hospitalised patients.

New research shows that reduced performance due to schizophrenia is not tantamount to reduced responsibility, inability to develop guilt feelings and diminished occupational prowess.

Total change does not happen. Personalities remain essentially intact. In fact, patients are much freer and have more critical judgment than would seem possible from former textbook views.

The fact that sufferers can learn and develop adjusted attitudes is an important aspect of any therapy — an aspect which has hitherto been neglected.

For the patients admitted to the Bonn hospital between 1951 and 1959, prospects for a cure through treatment with drugs improved considerably compared the prospects of those who fell ill before 1951, i.e. before the appropriate drugs became available.

Drugs have created the basis for modern sociotherapy. They are statistically shown to be the most effective therapy for schizophrenia.



Research into families and twins indicates that a predisposition to schizophrenic psychoses is hereditary.

Identical, one-egg, twins fall ill four times as often as their two-egg counterparts.

Family research confirms that the risk rises with the degree of blood relation.

In distant relatives it is only slightly higher than for unrelated people, rising with closeness of relation and reaching its peak in children of two schizophrenic parents.

These risk figures cannot be explained with social factors as being the result of increasingly similar environments, because even children who were adopted by unrelated families immediately after birth are as frequently affected by schizophrenia as those who have remained in their biological families.

Vice versa, children of healthy Parents adopted by schizophrenics were not found to be prone to the disorder. Identical twins who grow up separately are as endangered as those who have grown up together.

About 50 per cent of children with two schizophrenic parents develop the disorder. The fact that almost half remain healthy despite a pronounced schizophrenic family milieu also speaks against the environment theory.

Nothing certain is as yet known about the hereditary aspects. Additional environment factors can either promote or retard the disorder.

Perhaps even people with a certain proneness can escape the disorder, given favourable environmental conditions. The disease is only triggered under heavy stress.

It appears that a likelihood of getting the disease is passed on through biochemical deviations of the central nervous functions. Today's research points to the neuron system in the brain as the most likely centre of the disturbance.

Professor Huber considers the most important result of his study the fact that the term "mental illness" can no longer be applied to schizophrenia, which is a physical ailment.

Until recently, it was thought that schizophrenia was cause by a variety of environmental factors: life in a poorer class; hostile family environment; divorces or separations; social isolation; remaining unmarried.

The Bonn study has now ruled these out.

All these factors are the effects rather than the cause.

The researchers found that peo[ple] from the lower social groupings were a majority at the time of after care.

But the parents of the patients were not mostly from those groupings. Neither were most patients before the disorder began.

In other words, the disease was cause of downward social movement.

According to the findings of psychiatry involving different cultures, schizophrenic psychoses occur among all peoples, races and cultures with equal frequency.

Despite differences in the symptoms and substance of hallucinations, differences caused by environment, culture, religion, etc., the course of the illness is similar everywhere. Sufferers throughout the world resemble each other more than their healthy counterparts.

Studies do not confirm that schizophrenia is a civilisation disorder due to stress which does not occur in primitive societies and in developing countries.

Sociological theories concerning causes of schizophrenia are at present particularly popular in socalled anti-psychiatry circles.

They maintain that it is the performance-oriented capitalistic society that makes peoples mentally ill, a society which must therefore be changed.

But, writes Professor Huber, we need no ideology. What we do need is empirical research.

He terms demands unrealistic which call on psychiatry to prevent future psychoses by changing society. Such demands are based on theories unsupported by scientific research.

Marie-Gabrielle zu Hohenlohe

(Die Welt, 30 November 1979)

Prize winners pull cloak from 'naked mini viruses'

Virus research has won Professors Albrecht Kleinschmidt and Heinz Sänger the Robert Koch Prize for medicine.

Their main work has been research into a new class of microbes known as viroides.

They have also developed new ways of seeing by electron microscope two genetic material handlers: deoxyribonucleic acid(DNA) and ribonucleic acid(RNA).

Viroides has been the subject of much research in the past 10 years.

So far, only plant diseases are known to be caused by viroides. It has not yet been possible to link these mini viruses with diseases in man and animals, though this is likely eventually.

Researchers have so far found that all types of microbes or fungi (including protozoas, bacilli, bacterias and viruses) can cause disease in plants, animals and people though the same ones do not necessarily affect all forms of life.

Viroides, which have only been known for a few years, are also called "naked mini viruses" because they consist only of coverless RNAs.

They are so small that the genetic information stored in them is not enough for reproduction.

As a result, they can only stimulate reproduction in their host cell which is then carried out with the help of enzymes, proteins and nucleic acid. In the process, the host cells gradually lose their enzymes and their genetic material, which spells ruin for them.

Viroides consist of relatively few base pairs; in other words, very short nucleic acid particles with about 350 to 360 nucleic acid modules, the so-called nucleotides, Professor Sänger said in his address at the award ceremony.

Viroides were found in the course of searching for the cause of long-known plant diseases that had hitherto been attributed to viruses.

Meanwhile, seven viroide diseases in plants have been identified, among them commercially very important ones affecting potatoes, citrus, cucumbers, coconut palms and hops.

But viroides occur in very small concentrations in the affected plants. One kilo of leaves thus frequently produces no more than one millionth of a gram of viroides.

Professors Sänger, from Giessen, and Kleinschmidt (of Ulm) have only in the past few years managed to shed light on the structure of various viroides. They proved to be single-strand ring-like nucleic acid molecules occuring in double-strand structures.

Professor Sänger explained a number of hitherto unknown characteristics, saying that viroides were only about five times the size of the smallest functional RNA in the normal cell, the So-called transfer RNA.

Notwithstanding the knowledge gained on the viroide structure, little is known about their procreation mechanisms.

Viroide procreation probably takes place with the help of the cell's enzymes. Intensive research to clarify this question is now in progress.

It is also unknown whether and how an organism can defend itself against viroides. Since these particles have no protein covering, they even fail to alert the known immunological mechanisms of the cell system. Without protein covering they have no antigen effect.

It is possible that some rare brain diseases are caused by viroide infection. Today's researchers speak of "slow virus diseases" because they destroy cells over a long period of time.

But all that has been found so far is few naked virus particles. It still remains open whether there is any actual link with viroides.

Research into viroides became possible through new techniques developed by Professor Kleinschmidt in the use of electron microscopes.

The new method centres around nucleic acid strands which normally are completely snarled. The unsnarling is done by a substance called zytochrome C.

Once the nucleic acid molecules have been unsnarled they can be prepared for examination under an electron microscope. This makes it possible to establish the size and shape of the nucleic acid strands.

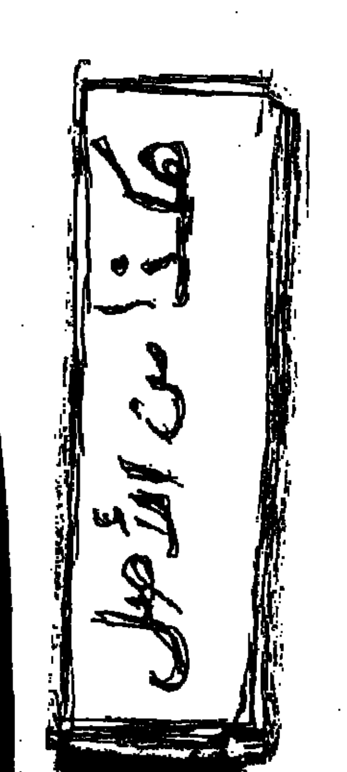
The size of these strands extends from that of the small molecules of viroides (360 nucleotides) all the way to the nucleic acid of a human chromosome, some containing about 57 million nucleotides.

In the course of the past few years it has thus been possible to examine individual genes and their parts.

The electron microscope also makes it possible to engage in genetic manipulation in the course of which alien nucleic acid is introduced into a bacterial nucleic acid. In some cases, the bacteria with the new nucleic acid propagate with new genetic properties.

Werner Pfeiffer

(Der Tagesspiegel, 1 December 1979)



■ EDUCATION

Graduate hopes 'hit by employment realities'

Predictions of demand for graduates in industry are unreliable, according to a study by the German Economic Institute (IW). They are based on doubtful assumptions about the employment situation and general economic and technological development.

Many such predictions are also dictated by self-interest with a view to maintaining the status quo for the privileged few.

The Cologne based-Institute says that predictions about industry's graduate needs are not an adequate basis for a decision about a graduate's future, though they do refine the diagnosis and therapy of the labour market and in this respect are of some importance in educational policy.

Another criticism is that predictions of future requirements are based solely on developments in the past. And here highly-qualified educational background is regarded as synonymous with a university degree.

The Institute says in future more attention should be paid to education and further education at all levels, in vocational education, the secondary modern and grammar schools, comprehensive and special schools and in evening institutes and technical colleges.

Universities, according to the study, had to date enjoyed a monopoly. As a result, graduates had naively exaggerated expectations, believing that they had a right to well-paid and prestigious posts. These expectations, the study stresses, simply do not conform to industrial reality today.

Thinking in terms of social status and the widespread belief that learning stopped once a degree was gained were further obstacles to gaining good posts in industry, according to the study.

In the authors' view, unemployment among graduates, which was still less than the general level of unemployment among the working population as a whole, should not be treated as more important than unemployment in other sectors.

The Cologne economists recommend that employers should change their system of rewards and payments as a means towards bringing the educational system more into line with the realities of the employment situation.

The results of the theoretical analysis of labour market predictions were confirmed by a non-representative poll among 18 companies from all branches of industry employing 1.4 million workers (5.4 % of the working population).

These companies, which had a higher than average number of graduates on their payrolls, were asked what criteria they used in appointing graduates and what problems they met.

They said the main problem lay in the quality rather than the quantity of graduates and their high expectations.

Changing patterns of employment

Percentage change in numbers between 1970 and 1978

Net losses		Gains	
Chemical workers	-12	Doctors	+22
Architects	-13	Lawyers and solicitors	+35
Bricklayers	-14	Nurses	+48
Clerical staff	-15	Nursery teachers	+60
Painters	-23	Managers	+66
Farmers	-25	Computer staff	+67
Accounts clerks	-25	GP's secretaries	+72
Family emplyees	-39	Economists	+77
Tailors	-47	Teachers	+81
Unskilled construction workers	-48	Social workers	+87

In the opinion of personnel officers, young graduates still have traditional — and therefore exaggeratedly high — career expectations. According to the poll, many graduates are not mentally mobile enough, not prepared to move to other areas if their jobs required it.

Most companies said that personal qualities were more important factors than the class of a candidate's degree.

Only one of the 18 companies said that a good degree was a major criterion in selection and only two companies attached importance to their appointees' having better than average degrees.

The main criteria according to the IW study were:

- practical experience
- qualities such as skill in negotiation, logical and practical thinking
- qualities of character such as cooperativeness, ability to integrate and to learn and, above all, flexibility and mobility.

Personnel officers reckon that the expectations of graduates are even higher. Candidates for posts seemed to be more self-confident, more critical.

Companies, for their part, were trying to counter lack of mobility by a wide-ranging programme of introductory and in-service courses.

According to the poll, graduates have not, as a rule, been appointed to posts previously held by non-graduates, nor is this likely to happen in the near future. The poll seems to indicate this, as professional academies are meeting with a good response from industry. The Institute concludes that this indicates a gap in traditional courses.

(Handelsblatt, 4 December 1979)

Competition is tough for medical school

Applicants hoping to get on to university degree courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science via a new test scheme are bound, for the most part, to be disappointed. Only 18 per cent of all admissions will be via this scheme — less than a fifth of all admissions.

The rest will have to take the traditional, fiercely competitive route to get on to these courses. This means in effect that they need the highest marks in their school leaving certificate to train as doctors, vets or dentists.

The new scheme is not a test in the traditional sense and there is no truth whatever in the rumour that more university places were being made available for those taking part in it.

The Central Council on University Admissions (ZVS) will allocate about the same number of students to the same number of university places, according to a decision by the *Land* ministers of education.

The importance of the test scheme is generally over-rated and so it is hardly surprising that very keen students have already started special intensive preparations to get a head start on other applicants.

This may will prove a wasted effort. There are 45,000 more applicants for places in these subjects than there are places, and only 6,000 are admitted to the test scheme. Assuming that all applicants will want to take the test, this means lots will have to be drawn and statistically each applicant will then only have 1:7.5 chances of even sitting the test.

According to ZVS rules, would-be students may apply to a maximum of six universities. For first-time applicants, the limit is three.

Obviously, those who get into the 6,000 still have not reached their goal. Each applicant has only a one in five chance of getting on to the course of his choice — there are only 1,200 places for the 6,000.

Even worse: marks gained in the test will not necessarily guarantee admission. Only ten per cent of places will be given to the best ten per cent of applicants. The remaining ninety per cent of places will be awarded taking marks in the Abitur university entrance examination into account. Average Abitur marks will count for 55, the test only for five per cent here. So that better pupils have a head start here, too. Those with lower Abitur marks will have to do better in the test to have at least the same chance.

Those with brilliant marks in their Abitur do not even have to take the test. They are the only ones who can be sure of a place according to the new selection procedure. One in ten places is reserved for them.

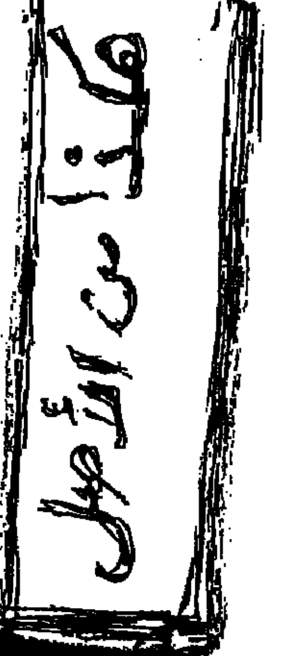
At the end of the selection process, these 10 per cent of places are allocated to those with the best marks.

First of all those with averages of 1.0 (in descending order of merit on a scale of 1 to 6) take part in the quota system. The result is that these super-pupils displace students who have no chance of benefitting from the ten per cent clause.

This means that at the end of the day, even pupils with averages of 1.3 get places reserved for "super pupils."

A.W. Breinersdorfer

(Die Welt, 5 December 1979)



■ SOCIETY

Dilemma over teacher opens up wider question of Scientology sect

Rainer P., 42, teaches at a Stuttgart secondary school which considers him to be capable.

He is liked by both parents and students, but Günter R., a well-known Stuttgart pediatrician considers his son's former teacher a "seducer of youth" and proselytiser for an extremely dangerous sect.

The Stuttgart Educational Information Movement (ABI) also warns of the teacher, saying that he belongs to a sect which systematically undermines our society.

The sect is the Church of Scientology which has successfully recruited new members in this country and made good money in the process.

The Scientologists have now added one more front organisation to the many existing ones: the Centre for Individual and Effective Learning (ZIEL) which caters for students with difficulties.

It has happened lately in Stuttgart, Munich and Berlin that secondary school students came home carrying a yellow handbill that offers courses and promises to remedy their learning problems.

The handbill says that the student must first learn how to learn and promises to teach this in two-week courses organised by ZIEL, which, accordind to the piece of paper, has been founded by committed Swiss teachers.

The price tag is DM450, for which *both teachers and students are provided with an effective learning technique.* No further details are revealed.

ABI, which has been extremely successful in consumer protection in matters of education in Stuttgart, wanted to know more.

In the course of its investigation, it came across the statutes of ZIEL, a registered association, and discovered that a bosom enemy was hiding behind the front: the Scientology sect and its founder, Ron L. Hubbard.

Some years ago, Hubbard had to flee Britain when the government began investigating his activities and deported foreign Scientology members. In France, he was sentenced to a four-year prison term.

But he is at liberty to spread his ideas in the Federal Republic of Germany. A pompous Scientology Centre was erected in Munich, employing more than 200 and equipped with computers, telephones and a world-wide communications system.

The Centre records everything ever published about the sect and reacts instantly. When a Stuttgart local paper published some critical reports on ZIEL, the Centre immediately issued "corrections", filed directly with the editor-in-chief, and a tide of protesting letters to the editor, identically worded, flooded the paper.

A reporter who criticised the fact that leading Scientologists have no problems becoming teachers is now to be hauled before the Press Council. The Centre also makes use of expensive advertising to defend itself against what it terms "defamation".

One of these advertisements points to the constitutionally guaranteed freedom of religion and to the fact that ZIEL must therefore enjoy this freedom and receive *all necessary protection* under the law.

Scientology, the advertisement says, is "an applied religious philosophy, enabling everybody to develop the positive spiritual forces within himself for his own and the community's good."

The advertisement also attacks ABI, saying that "its relatively unknown protagonists were in the same boat as Karl Marx with his statement that religion was opium for the people." This statement by Marx, the advertisement continues, only proves his attempt to equate the great founders of religion with crooks and drug pushers.

ABI considers Hubbard a "criminal sect founder" who wants to spread his "message" among schoolchildren.

In Berlin, the ABI came across ZIEL courses that provided instruction only in the teachings of the sect.

ABI has meanwhile also looked into the possibility that gullible teachers have fallen prey to the sect's bagful of tricks. The result of the investigation was that ZIEL was founded by members and functionaries of the sect only.

But its planned proselytising also included the Stuttgart teacher Rainer P. The highly regarded *Südwestdeutsche Schulblätter* carried an article on ZIEL and its technique through which Scientology's type of education was made socially acceptable. But this has meanwhile been recanted by the publishers as a regrettable error.

Dr Günter R., of Stuttgart, feels more than regret over the fact that his son "went to the dogs" due to the influence of his teacher, Rainer P.

The doctor has made it his task to advise and help desperate parents whose children have opted out of home and school to join the Scientologists.

On weekends, he meets parents and children for discussion.

He is worried about the future, saying that the "sect problem will one day be worse than the problem of drug addiction."

Sects are extremely imaginative in proselytising. The Scientologists, for instance, have been using many front organisations, among them ZIEL, since their own image was tarnished, says ABI.

And they should know. ABI has 10 court cases against the Scientologists in an effort to prevent them from accosting people in Stuttgart streets.

Those who join the Scientologists are first relieved of their money. In Stuttgart's Scientology church, believers go through a number of membership degrees, paying for each: DM625 for a Scientology student, DM3,735 for a dianetics counselor, DM1,222 for the dianetics case supervisor, DM1,222 for a trained Scientologist, DM1,805 for a certified auditor, DM1,303 for a professionally advanced auditor, DM2,443 for an advanced case supervisor and DM3... for a grade 4 senior.

Hubbard thus rakes it in especially since the prices are constantly adjusted according to economic developments.

Young secondary school students are easily attracted through the misleading term "study".

But study (which is what ZIEL calls its technique) usually serves to learn a profession with which to earn a living. With Scientology it is exactly the reverse: what the students learn there is useless outside the sect.

Says ABI: "Their staff members are thus absolutely at the mercy of the sect."

Young people who want to leave the sect are not only exposed to the usual reprisals by society but frequently become a welfare case.

In the state of Victoria in Australia an investigation committee was established in 1963 to look into the activities of Scientology. The findings were later published and became known as the "Anderson Report".

It says: "Scientology is harmful as to its methods, and its practical application is a serious threat to society, medically, morally and socially. Its followers are misguided creatures, frequently mentally deranged."

In the closing passage, the Report calls the Hubbard organisation "the world's largest organisation of unqualified people engaged in dangerous activities that are passed off as intellectual and psychological therapy."

Hansjörg N. Schultz

(Die Zeit, 30 November 1979)

Suicides, alcoholism, drug addiction, are contagious, says psychiatrist

Alcoholism, drug addiction and attempted suicide are contageous, according to Professor Heinz Häfner of the Mannheim Institute for Mental Health.

This is a provocative thesis because how is abnormal psychological behaviour to be passed on from one person to another?

But those who have delved into modern psychiatric research will see the social problem of addiction in another light Professor Häfner told a meeting of the Association for German Science, in Hamburg.

The number of suicides has remained almost unchanged in the past 20 years. But suicide attempts have increased dramatically during that time. In Mannheim, they have doubled since 1956.

Adolescents and adults up to the age of 25 attempt suicide more than any other age group.

The increase in the rate of attempted suicides is greatest among girls under 25. Women try to end their lives twice as often as men in the same age group.

From the age of 25 onward, the increase in the rate of suicide attempts is roughly the same for both sexes.

Men over 50 rarely attempt to kill themselves.

These are figures provided by a Mannheim study that goes beyond mere statistics.

Rainer Welz has analysed the Mannheim data and come up with a curious pattern: suicide attempts between 1966 and 1975 were concentrated in a few streets of Mannheim.

A total of 71 city streets were registered where the attempted suicide rate was more than 20 per 1,000 inhabitants. But only 4.6 per cent of Mannheimers live in those streets and yet they account for 14.4 per cent of all suicide attempts.

In six streets, the suicide rate was more than 40 per 1,000, and in the street with the highest rate one in 14 people tried to commit suicide.

Suicide was mostly attempted in streets with little social integration. In Mannheim, this includes primarily two residential areas with a similar milieu and social structure.

One of these areas is middle class, marked by a relatively small proportion of blue collar workers and young people.

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Compared with the city average, these streets have more old people, divorcees, broken families and single women.

Herr Welz also views mobility as a sign of instability and lack of social relations. In these streets, people move more often than in others.

The other group of streets also shows the characteristics of social disintegration. This group is characterised by a relatively high quota of blue collar workers and dilapidated buildings.

It is still unknown why there is such a concentration of suicide attempts in such a few streets.

But the analysis seem to indicate that suicides are more likely in those streets where others have committed suicide before.

According to Herr Welz, there must be certain infectious carriers in these streets: social conditions must influence attitudes.

But what these processes are and who is prone or who acts as a carrier are questions that Professor Häfner was unable to answer.

More is known about the mechanism through which alcoholism and drug addiction are spread. American and British studies show that a heroin addict infects the newcomer through direct contact.

A love affair with an addict promotes infection. In this case, the carrier is the drug ideology that opposes the values of the existing culture, frequently making use of music.

But the carrier remains contagious only for six months because he loses his power of conviction as a result of his own addiction.

Good relations with the parents, who are not themselves drug addicts, seem to have an immunising effect.

Konrad Müller-Christiansen

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 29 November 1979)

■ SPORT

Mixed fortunes for women's gymnastics teams

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Gymnastics comes in several disciplines. While the West German women's team came in unlucky 13th in the world championships in Forth Worth, Texas, their counterparts in what is now known as rhythmic sports gymnastics won an encouraging victory over Rumania back home in Wiesbaden.

The chief coach at Wiesbaden, Livia Medilanski, talked about the "superb harmony, humanity and art" that this lighter muse among gymnastics disciplines combined.

For her the Wiesbaden international was an encounter with the past. Six years ago she came from Rumania and chose to stay in West Germany.

The woman who had been her coach in Rumania was a visiting team official at Wiesbaden's Jahnhalle.

It was the Rumanian women's first international competition for six years, Bucharest having concentrated exclusively on the Fort Worth version of gymnastics, the version at which Nadia Comaneci starred in Montreal.

But now sports gymnastics looks like gaining Olympic status at the 1984 Los Angeles Games, the Rumanian women stand a better chance of being groomed for international honours.

Six years out of the international running certainly showed; they have not kept pace with international developments. Their West German hosts were not even sure how to rate them.

But it took only the first of four events, the rope, to show that the visitors were not going to have it all their own way. It was clear almost from the outset that the German girls were on their way to what turned out to be a clear 191.75-187.05 victory.

"In composition alone we were at least two classes better," Frau Medilanski said. The piano accompaniment was provided by composer Eugen Filipescu, also Rumanian-born, who is a great help to the girls.

The Rumanian women's accompaniment was tape-recorded, second-hand, as it were. This was a handicap overcome only by the two best visitors, Dorina Cordes, 13, and Rodica Popescu, 14.

Individually, the petite Dorina ranked third, with Nos. 1 and 2 being Carmen Rischer from Wattenscheid and Regina Weber from Lüneburg.

Miss Cordes came in just a whisker ahead of Anke Abraham, a Lüneburg clubmate of Fräulein Weber's.

Rischer, Weber and Abraham was the order in which the three German girls came at the last national championships in their four disciplines: the rope, the ball, the club and the ribbon.

Carmen Rischer was equally at home in all four. She may only be 1.53m tall, or 5ft ("and a half," she adds), but the pace she set was breathtaking.

At the ripe old age of 22 she is still bubbling over with temperament, much more so than either Regina Weber or Anke Abraham.

Weber created an impression of ballet-like balance and scope. Abraham showed a little more sparkle. But both faulted. Fräulein Weber dropped her rope, Fräulein Abraham her club.

Rhythmic sports gymnastics has come a long way from the early-morning keep-fit exercises at the open window.

The girls handled the rope as though they were snake-charmers, and their performance with the clubs was worthy of a circus act.

Their routine with the ribbon, 6m long, was reminiscent of folk dancing, while the assurance with which they handled the ball could hardly have been outdone by the most agile of performing seals.

Yet the overall impression is not one of a circus act. The girls make it look as though gymnastics, or at least their version of gymnastics, is still fun.

Even Annelie Theel, vice-president of the Gymnatics Federation, was impressed. "That's how I like it," she said, referring to what seemed an oasis of peace and quiet in a sport that is otherwise rent by dissension.

Hans-Joachim Leyenberg

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 10 December 1979)

Carmen Rischer: athleticism and grace (Photo: Sven Simon)

Poor German world title performance rules out Olympic Games

The West German women's gymnastics team has effectively been eliminated from international competition for at least four years.

Its 13th place in the world championships in Fort Worth, Texas, ensured that.

Had the women managed to finish 12th, they would have qualified for the Olympic Games in Moscow.

But South Korea just managed to pip them to the post.

Annette Michler and her team were a whisker ahead of South Korea (184.8 to 184.7 points) after the set piece, but the Korean girls left them standing in the freestyle.

South Korea finished 1.7 points clear (371.05 to 369.45) to make sure of 12th.

Team official Ursula Hinz, who was confident before the German team flew off to Texas, was almost at a loss for words.

"You can't expect to win championship honours if you show so little commitment," she eventually snapped.

Only national champion Annette Michler, who scored 75 points, performed at all creditably.

Most of the team seemed to have rest and recuperation in Miami more on their mind than the competition. The outcome is that they will have more than enough time on their hands to think it over now.

"I just cannot figure it out," said national trainer Eric Singer. "I fail to understand the slack attitude and the way not even team members' own coaches here in Fort Worth managed to whip up a little enthusiasm.

"What was more, they lacked security and self-assurance, and without them you cannot even attempt a routine, let alone hope to win."

So the outcome was probably inevitable. After the ground event the team were trailing by 0.85 points, largely because not one girl had risked a double somersault.

After the jump, only one out of 12 a clean landing, the backlog was 0.7. Then came the bar ("There was a wave of anti-German feeling at this point," Singer said) and a further shortfall of 1.25 points.

Even worse was to come at the horizontal bar, where all six girls suddenly felt unsure of themselves. Three clambered down, forfeiting another point and a half in the process.

Even if these points had not been lost the South Koreans would still have won by a margin of two tenths of a point. It would still have been 13th place and tears all round.

Why did the West German women perform in this fourth-rate fashion, faring even worse than at Dortmund in 1966, where they came thenth? There are a variety of reasons.

There was persistent infighting among officials. At the end of last year Hanna Stobbe took over team management from Annelie Theel, only to be replaced herself on 3 November 1979 by Ursula Hinz.

"My predecessor had no concept whatever," Frau Hinz claimed. "In the first half of 1979 she paid no attention to the world championships in her training schedules."

This bickering can hardly have done any good and there was also a running argument between national and individual coaches that regularly hit the headlines.

National coaches Eric Singer and Petra Berchtold lost this particular battle. "We disclaim all responsibility for any lack of co-operation," they said.

"We can't carry on like this," said Singer. He has threatened to resign.

Vera Grymonpez, a coach who can claim a fair number of successes, said: "I wasn't angling for the job. I just filled in the gap because I feel sorry for the girls.

"What we lack are beautiful girls with pluck, charm and elegance. We must change the general impression the international gymnastics world has of West German girls.

"Our girls have a reputation for being too stolid, too masculine. Now at least we stand a chance of being able to start again from scratch." *dpa/sid/AFP*

(Die Welt, 8 December 1979)

Munich man wins judo bronze medal

Günter Neureuther, a 24-year-old Munich policeman, won a bronze medal at the judo world championships in Paris.

He came third in the light heavyweight division, behind Timur Chubuluri of the Soviet Union, the new world champion, and Robert van der Walle of Belgium, the man who beat him.

Neureuther's medal was a fitting reward for hard training. "I have to put in up to four hours' training a day," he said.

He came third in the European championships in Brussels too, and stood a fair chance of clinching gold this time.

"Prospects were never as good," commented old hand Klaus Glahn from Wolfsburg.

Neureuther, who won silver in the heavyweight class at Montreal, beat GDR champion Dietmar Lorenz en route to the semi-finals but this was no surprise.

After Paris he was off, for rest and recuperation in Italy, followed by a holiday in Tenerife. Next March he will go to Japan for further training.

Russia and Japan shared the first championship titles in Paris. Chubuluri lived up to the promise of his European championship title in the light heavyweight.

Yashohiro Yamashita in the heavyweigth class made short shrift of France's Jean-Luc Rouge in the final. *dpa*

(Kieler Nachrichten, 8 December 1979)